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# BILL DRAFTING MANUAL 2000

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Montana Legislative Services Division  
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# Preface

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The first Bill Drafting Manual was written by the Legislative Council staff during the 1960-61 interim to provide a uniform standard for bill drafting. Its main purpose was to provide the drafter with a reference source to the requirements of Senate and House rules, statutes, the Constitution, and case law, as well as suggestions on the mechanics, technique, and style of legislative drafting.

Our purpose remains the same. The Legislative Services Division staff directs your attention especially to the table of contents, the examples in the appendices, and the index. These resources can be very helpful in locating information pertinent to your needs.

Montana's Bill Drafting Manual is revised each interim in order to incorporate recent changes. We hope that you find the manual useful.

Gregory J. Petesch  
Code Commissioner and  
Director of Legal Services



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# Chapter 1

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## Bill Drafting Generally

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### **1-1. Policy and the Bill Drafter.**

Bills may be drafted for various persons and groups by bill drafters. Some bills are drafted by the Legislative Services Division staff at the request of a legislator or committee, some are drafted by personnel of departments of state government, and some are drafted by counsel retained by private individuals or groups. Bills requested by an agency or a committee must be preintroduced. Preintroduction is accomplished by having an individual legislator file a preintroduction form that is provided by and returned to the Legislative Services Division. A copy of the form is contained in Appendix T.

The drafter's function is to translate the objectives and policies of the person or group for whom the bill is drafted into clear, concise language. The drafter may not express personal thoughts or promote self-interest but must remain an impartial technician. To do otherwise is to risk drafting legislation containing ideas or implications not intended by the person for whom the bill is drafted.

### **1-2. Constitutionality — Statutory Provisions.**

A bill is, in essence, a proposed statute. A statute is the vehicle by which the Legislature exercises its lawmaking power. The United States and Montana Constitutions are the fundamental law upon which our government is based, and any statute enacted by the Legislature must conform to them. Aside from the constraints of physical reality, the Legislature's lawmaking power is limited only by these two Constitutions and by federal statutes. Under the Supremacy Clause (Art. VI) of the U.S. Constitution, any act of Congress that is not itself in violation of the U.S. Constitution may not be contravened by a state legislature. Thousands of volumes have been written on the subject of constitutionality of statutes. However, the purpose of this manual is not to provide an exhaustive discussion of these problems as they may be encountered in bill drafting but to emphasize that constitutionality is a paramount consideration and to bring to the reader's attention a few of the more frequently recurring problems. At a minimum, all bill drafters should periodically review the entire Montana Constitution, which



contains many of the same provisions as the U.S. Constitution, and then refresh their memories by referring to the Constitutions whenever a potential problem surfaces. The bill drafter is in a unique position with relation to the public sector in general and the legal community in particular because the drafter has the opportunity, with the concurrence of the bill requestor, to forestall constitutional difficulties before they cause confusion, litigation, and expense. Frequently, a bill can be drafted to avoid an inherent constitutional problem while still accomplishing the basic goals of the requestor. Many bill drafting requests arise from a particular problem as perceived by an individual or relatively small interest group. The legislator/requestor who is solicited to provide a legislative remedy often wishes only to address the particular problem with a minimum of governmental expense and interference. For these reasons, problems involving equal protection of the law (Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.) and special legislation (Art. V, sec. 12, Mont. Const.) tend to recur. Underlying these provisions is the basic precept that state policy should be made to apply evenhandedly to all persons. These provisions, however, are not absolute prohibitions of all forms of discrimination. The courts will apply various standards under these provisions, depending upon the purpose of the statute and its relationship to the type of discrimination proposed, whether the discrimination involves a suspect classification (e.g., race), whether a fundamental right (e.g., free speech) is adversely affected, or upon other considerations. Suffice it to say that whenever a requested bill draft would, if passed and approved, confer a benefit or impose a burden on certain individuals, groups, or classes of persons to the exclusion of others, the drafter should consider the constitutional implications.

Because the Legislature is only in session periodically and because of the demands of an increasingly complex and technical society, the Legislature sometimes finds it appropriate to delegate some of its power to another entity. Under the separation of powers doctrine, a branch of government may not exercise the powers properly belonging to another branch (Art. III, sec. 1, Mont. Const.). The Legislature may provide for Executive Branch discretion in carrying out the law only if it provides sufficient statutory standards and criteria to guide the executive agency (*In re Gate City S&L Ass'n*, 182 M 361, 597 P2d 84 (1979), for insufficient guidelines, and *Grossman v. St.*, 209 M 427, 682 P2d 1319 (1984), for sufficient guidelines). Such guidance is particularly important in the context of administrative rulemaking through which the power to make legislative rules having the force of law may be delegated. (See discussion of bills granting rulemaking power in section 6-2.) On the other hand, the Legislature generally may not interfere with the Executive Branch in the purely administrative aspects of carrying out the law, such as by imposing a hiring freeze or otherwise making specific staffing and resource allocation decisions (*In re Opinion of the Justices to the Governor*, 341 NE 2d 354 (1976); *Anderson v. Lamm*, 195 Colo. 437, 579 P2d 620 (1978)). Further, the Legislature, within its sphere of power, must act as an entire body and may not



delegate final decisionmaking authority to a legislative committee (*State ex rel. Judge v. Legislative Fin. Comm.*, 168 M 470, 543 P2d 1317 (1975)).

Legislative power and responsibility may not be abdicated to private organizations (*St. v. Holland*, 37 M 393, 96 P 719 (1908)) or to the federal government (*Lee v. St.*, 195 M 1, 635 P2d 1282 (1981), rehearing denied, 38 St. Rep. 1931 (1981)). It is a common temptation to simply incorporate the regulations of a private organization or federal laws or regulations into the Montana law by reference. There is no infirmity in incorporating such laws or regulations as they exist at the time of the Montana enactment. The problem lies in referentially incorporating future changes in those laws or regulations (i.e., as they may be amended from time to time) because this has the effect of allowing an entity other than the state Legislature to amend Montana law.

Sections 1-2-112 and 1-2-113, MCA, prohibit the Legislature from imposing new duties on local governments and school districts without providing funding to cover the costs of the new duties. The 1995 Legislature enacted section 1-2-114, MCA, prohibiting even the introduction of a bill that increases local government or school district duties without providing the requisite funding. The 1995 Legislature also enacted section 1-2-115, MCA, which provides a means for local governments and school districts to avoid the requirements of any bill that is passed in violation of section 1-2-112 or 1-2-113, MCA.

The bill drafter should avoid referential incorporation of laws or regulations "as amended"; further, when referentially incorporating such laws or regulations as they exist at the time of enactment, this incorporation should be expressly stated (e.g., "Eligibility criteria are those provided for in 35 U.S.C. 405, as that statute reads on [the effective date of this act]."). For a statutory treatment of the problem of incorporation by reference in the administrative rulemaking context, see section 2-4-307, MCA. Incorporation by reference of other MCA sections does not present constitutional problems and can often be used to good advantage. (See Internal References, section 2-18.)

For discussion of the constitutional provision dealing with bill titles, see section 4-4.

### **1-3. Indian Issues.**

The bill drafter should consider whether the new legislation could affect the Montana Indian tribes. Certain topics, including mining, hunting, fishing, gambling, adoption, and taxation, may affect the Montana tribes. The Legislative Services Division has prepared standard language to provide notification to the tribes—one form for general issues, to be sent to all tribes, and one form for land issues, thus excluding the Little Shell Band of Chippewa (currently landless). See Appendix P for examples of these forms.

Additionally, the bill drafter should be aware that because of the special status of tribal governments and certain attributes of tribal sovereignty, the Legislature may not impose mandates on tribal governments.

If a bill relates only to one specific tribe, it is preferable to use the tribal name whenever possible (i.e., "Crow tribe" or "Blackfeet tribe" in Code; "Crow Tribe" or "Blackfeet Tribe" in resolutions). Otherwise, the term "Indian" is preferred. Use of the term "Native American" is discouraged because it is very broad and can properly apply to anyone born in America.

If a bill amends or establishes a program in which tribal governments may be interested in participating, the applicable definition section may need to include a definition of "tribal government". The term is usually defined as "a federally recognized Indian tribe located within the boundaries of the state of Montana". With the exception of the Little Shell Band of Chippewa, all tribes in Montana are federally recognized. Federal recognition acknowledges the special relationship existing between the federal government and a tribe, recognizes the inherent rights and self-governing powers of the tribe, and confers specific benefits and services on the tribe through various federal laws.

#### **1-4. Research and Drafting.**

Research and organizing are steps inherent in all writing. Bill drafting is no exception.

Occasionally, a drafter will have the facts and law sufficiently well in mind so that drafting can be done with little research. However, the precision and complexity of the law usually require research.

The extent of research required depends on the complexity of the drafting problem. The drafter must define that problem and then determine how to achieve the purpose of the bill.

Analysis of the problem to be solved will enable the drafter to determine the sources to consult for more information. Sources of information that must be considered by the drafter include the state and federal Constitutions (see Constitutionality — Statutory Provisions, section 1-2); existing federal, state, or local statutes; case law; pending law; and applicable federal, state, or local regulations.

The importance of reviewing existing state statutes in the area of law to which the draft relates cannot be overemphasized. Omission of this step often results in conflict, overlap, or redundancy, thus creating more problems than are solved. Therefore, a determination as to which existing statutes, if any, should be repealed or amended must be made with regard to every bill draft. (See Use of Online Internal Reference List, section 1-8.)



Research preparation must be as thorough as time allows. A thorough understanding of the legal and practical factors involved in a bill is necessary to ensure production of a bill that will accomplish the purpose of its proponent. The drafter has a professional obligation to advise the proponent of possible legal or practical problems of which the drafter is aware.

No one can tell the drafter when enough research is done. The drafter must determine when to stop gathering information and start writing.

### **1-5. Organization.**

Organize the information at hand. Develop an outline that places the elements of the problem in a logical pattern. A bill for only a simple amendment to existing law will present no organizational problem. A major new body of law will require considerable effort to guarantee clarity. Some bill parts are so common that their placement in a bill has been standardized. A drafter must be familiar with the standard bill format discussed in Chapter 4 of this manual before beginning to organize the bill.

Begin to draft the bill when the work is outlined. Rewrite the bill as often as is necessary to achieve clarity, coherence, and unity. Revise the organization of the bill if revision contributes to clarity.

### **1-6. Timesavers.**

There are several timesavers that may be used in preparing a draft bill.

(1) (a) The Legislative Services Division staff requires that all MCA statute text be downloaded from the most recent database (on CD-ROM) prepared by the Legislative Services Division. In a section of statute text, new material must be shown as underlined and deleted material must be shown as stricken. Under each downloaded section, there will appear a list of any MCA locations that contain references to that section. The drafter is responsible for checking the sections containing the references and including in the bill draft any necessary amendments to those sections. (See Use of Online Internal Reference List, section 1-8.)

(b) If it is impossible to download statute text from the Legislative Services Division's database, the drafter should use the "cut-and-paste" method by taping on a separate sheet of paper a copy of the most recent version of each MCA section to be amended and by indicating new language and deletions in red pen on the copy. A drafter using this method is responsible for including all affected sections from the online internal reference list. (See section 1-8.)

(2) Material that is completely new and that does not amend an MCA section should not be underlined.

(3) The Legislative Services Division provides computer drafting aids, called macros, that streamline the drafting process. Various standard phrases and “housekeeping” (noncodified) sections, such as an effective date or severability section, are available to drafters who use the Legislative Services Division database.

(4) When using the cut-and-paste method to draft a large or complex bill, it may be useful to place each section on a separate sheet of paper and rearrange the sections until a cohesive draft is prepared. Under either the downloaded or the cut-and-paste method, section numbers and internal references should not be filled in until the final arrangement is reached.

(5) At the end of the bill draft, write “End” so that it will be clear that it is the end of the bill. Often, there are copies of background material, preliminary drafts, or other documents attached. (Please include a photocopy of the title page and the section text of any non-Montana act actually cited in the bill draft text.)

(6) Bill drafts may be submitted to the Legislative Services Division by electronic mail (preferred) or on DOS-formatted diskettes. Although the Legislative Services Division uses WordPerfect word processing software, files from other word processing formats may be converted to WordPerfect. (If a drafter has a question concerning file compatibility, contact the Legislative Services Division.) Bill drafts may also be submitted by telefacsimile transmission. The phone number for the Legislative Services Division telefacsimile machine is 444-3036. If this method is used, the drafter is requested to also submit an original version of the bill draft because a telefacsimile copy is often difficult to read and may not be fully transmitted.

### **1-7. Drafting Aids.**

The following serve as aids in drafting bills:

(1) Without creating a potential conflict or overlap, a bill may be patterned after existing Montana statutes. For example, when drafting a bill creating a board to license a particular occupation, the drafter should examine various licensing laws for a suitable model. The drafter, however, must be very careful to make all necessary adjustments to such a model. Not only is it a rare case that allows near verbatim use of existing law in a bill draft, but existing statutes are sometimes poorly organized and unclearly worded; this is particularly true of very old statutes.

(2) Similarly, bills introduced in past sessions may be helpful. The subject indexes of Senate and House journals or the *History and Final Status* may be used to determine whether a bill on a particular topic was introduced in that session and, if so, the bill’s number. The Office of the Secretary of State has copies of all introduced bills for all past sessions.



All versions of bills from the prior session are contained on the session CD-ROM prepared by the Legislative Services Division.

(3) The printed reports and the online subject search feature available on the LAWS (Legislative Automated Workflow System) Internet system that displays Bill Draft Requests by Subject and Introduced Bills by Subject can be referenced to see whether an identical or similar bill draft or bill has been requested or introduced. Each of these information sources groups bill drafts and bills under a specific subject. The short titles can then be checked to help detect similar bills. These services are available in early October prior to a session.

(4) Comparison of laws of other states on the same subject is usually very beneficial. In following a law from another state, the drafter must be very careful to make the bill language conform to Montana law and to good drafting practice and style. (Be especially careful to check the Constitutions of both states. What is constitutional in another state may not be constitutional in Montana.) If the draft submitted to the Legislative Services Division is drawn from another state, attach a note so indicating. (If the bill becomes law, this information will be used in a "Source" compiler's comment included in the MCA Annotations.) Also, include a photocopy of the title page and the section text of any non-Montana material actually cited in the bill draft.

(5) A list of uniform and model acts and the latest volume of *Suggested State Legislation* should be checked to see if a uniform act (which is intended to be followed exactly in substance), a model act, or a suggested act could be used as a guide. The substance of uniform acts may not be modified. Model acts may be modified, and they may be edited to conform to MCA style. If not readily apparent from the draft, a note indicating the source of the draft should be attached as explained in (4) above.

(6) If time permits, the drafter should consult with experts in the field affected. If the bill affects a governmental or state agency, a conference or discussion with an appropriate staff member from the agency is very helpful and a draft of the proposal may be sent to the agency for comment.

(7) See Chapter 9 for a list of constitutional and statutory provisions and legislative rules relating to bills.

### **1-8. Use of Online Internal Reference List.**

When amending or repealing an MCA section, the drafter must check the online internal reference list. This list is available to drafters who have the capability to download MCA sections from the Legislative Services Division database. The drafter may use a macro to access a list of references to any particular MCA section.

Also, whenever an MCA section is downloaded, any references to that section will be displayed directly below it. This should act as a reminder for the drafter to carefully check the listed sections to determine whether any of them should be amended (and therefore be included in the bill draft).

A drafter who needs information from the online internal reference list but who does not have access to the Legislative Services Division database should contact the Legislative Services Division.

**EXAMPLE 1:** The internal reference list for section 30-4-104, MCA, appears as follows:

Internal References to 30-4-104:

30-3-102	30-3-102	30-3-102
30-3-102	30-3-102	30-3-102
30-9-122	30-4A-105	30-4A-105
30-4A-105		

In the example above, references to section 30-4-104 appear six times in section 30-3-102, as indicated by the six listings of section 30-3-102. A reference to section 30-4-104 appears once in section 30-9-122. References to section 30-4-104 appear three times in section 30-4A-105.

When amending section 30-4-104, the drafter must read sections 30-3-102, 30-4A-105, and 30-9-122 to determine whether the amendment to section 30-4-104 affects those sections. If a drafter is repealing section 30-4-104, it is mandatory that each section that refers to section 30-4-104 be amended to delete the references and to make any other necessary modifications.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The internal reference list for section 85-7-1832, MCA, appears as follows:

Internal References to 85-7-1832:

85-7-1833\*

In the example above, the asterisk indicates that a reference to section 85-7-1832 does not actually appear in section 85-7-1833 but is included in a larger reference, such as "85-7-1831 through 85-7-1833". If section 85-7-1832 is repealed or if it is amended so that the reference is no longer accurate, "85-7-1831 through 85-7-1833" must be amended to read "85-7-1831 and 85-7-1833".

The drafter must be extremely careful when renumbering subsections within a section. For instance, if the drafter changes "1-1-101(2)(b)" to "1-1-101(3)(c)", all references within that section and in other statutes to "1-1-101(2)(b)" and to subsequent subsections of section 1-1-101 are rendered erroneous.

When renumbering subsections within a section, the entire section must be read carefully for references to subsections, such as



“subsection (3)”. Such references are not listed on the online internal reference list because the entire section number does not appear in the reference; only the subsection number appears.

In the same manner, all references in other statutes to the reoutlined section must be checked for such phrases as “subsection (2)(b) of 1-1-101” or “1-1-101(2)(b)”. The drafter should use the online reference list to check and amend, if necessary, the appropriate sections.

### **1-9. Bill Drafter Checklist.**

Appendix R and the “Bill Drafting Request” form (available upon request from the Legislative Services Division) provide a “Bill Drafter Checklist” that will aid the drafter in ensuring that essential matters have been considered. The completed checklist will also provide the Legislative Services Division and the Legislature with useful information. If the drafter does not have a “Bill Drafting Request” form, the checklist in Appendix R should be copied, filled out, and attached to any bill draft submitted to the Legislative Services Division. Each item on the list calls for a “yes”, “no”, or “N/A” (not applicable) entry.





## Chapter 2

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# Style and Language

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### **2-1. Introduction.**

Bills should be written in a simple, clear, and direct style, phrased for the common reader as well as for the political or legal expert.

A poorly drafted, ambiguous bill will waste the time of citizens affected, confuse those charged with its administration, lead to litigation, and likely fail to accomplish the purpose of the requestor. Good drafting requires concise wording that is understandable by a person who has no special knowledge of the subject.

If wording in a bill has to be paraphrased to make it intelligible to a nonexpert, it needs revising. In Montana, the common-law tradition has manifested itself in the timeworn, nonessential phrases and rhetorical flourishes found in our older legislative enactments. The suggestions contained in this chapter are designed to help the drafter avoid the most common faults in style and language evident in some of our present law.

As authority for basic rules of writing, the Legislative Services Division uses the latest edition of the *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual* and the *Gregg Reference Manual, Eighth Edition*, by William A. Sabin. Compounding of words is done according to the *Style Manual* and according to agency guidelines.

Generally, the ordinary rules of grammar apply to legislative writing; however, in a few instances a departure from common usage is followed.

### **2-2. Word Choice Generally.**

The objective in legislative drafting is to make the final product as precise and understandable as possible. There are hundreds of expressions, legal and otherwise, that can be simplified. In general:

- (1) never use a long word if a short one will do;
- (2) if it is possible to omit a word and preserve the desired meaning, always omit it; and

(3) never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if there is an everyday English equivalent.

Remember that the bill must be both precise and clear. While striving for unstilted, clear, natural expression, the drafter must avoid becoming conversational. In conversation, the speaker reserves the right to explain what is meant. No such right is granted the drafter. The entire meaning of a bill could be determined by the choice of one key word, so words must be chosen carefully.

An example of the kind of word choice to avoid is the conversational verb construct. This verb form appears most regularly as the combination of an accepted verbal base ("speed") and an accepted preposition ("up"). The resulting formulation ("speed up") is a conversational term unacceptable in bill drafting.

### **2-3. Tense.**

Use the present tense. The law speaks in the present, and each law is designed to give a rule for the continuing present. The present tense is a simple and natural form of expression. "The present tense includes the future as well as the present." (See section 1-2-105(1), MCA.)

#### *preferred*

A defendant in a criminal action is presumed to be innocent until the contrary is proved. When there is reasonable doubt whether guilt is satisfactorily shown, the defendant is entitled to an acquittal. (Present tense)

#### *avoid*

A defendant in a criminal action shall be presumed to be innocent until the contrary shall be proved. When there is reasonable doubt whether guilt shall be satisfactorily shown, the defendant shall be entitled to an acquittal. (Future tense)

### **2-4. Mood.**

Use the indicative mood. The drafter should avoid using the false imperative. The word "shall" should not be used to state a legal result or fact.

#### *preferred*

The term "commission" means the capitol restoration commission.

#### *avoid*

The term "commission" shall mean the capitol restoration commission.

#### *preferred*

A person who violates [sections 1 through 5] is guilty of a misdemeanor.

*avoid*

A person who violates [sections 1 through 5] shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

## **2-5. Shall, Must, and May.**

Avoid using will, should, and ought.

### **Shall**

Use “shall” when imposing a duty on a person or entity. (Active) (See exception in section 4-16.)

The licensee (department, judge, court) shall give the debtor a copy of the signed contract.

### **Must**

Use “must” when the subject is a thing rather than a person or entity. (Passive)

*preferred*

The information must be set forth in the application.

*avoid*

The information shall be set forth in the application.

*preferred*

The application must contain the applicant's name.

*avoid*

The application shall contain the applicant's name.

Use “must” when the subject is a person or entity that is acted upon. (Passive)

*preferred*

The judge must receive the application by the deadline.

*avoid*

The judge shall receive the application by the deadline.

Use “must” to express requirements about what a person or an entity must be or have rather than what a person or entity must do.

*preferred*

A candidate must be a resident of the county.

The nominee must meet the requirements of 37-3-305.



*avoid* A candidate shall be a resident of the county.

*preferred* The applicant must have a master's degree.

*avoid* The applicant shall have a master's degree.

## **May**

Use "may" to confer a discretionary right, privilege, or power.

The applicant may renew the application.

## **May not**

Use "may not" to express a prohibition.

Use "may not" if the verb that it qualifies is in the active voice.

*preferred* The applicant may not submit more than one application.

*avoid* The applicant must not submit more than one application.

*preferred* The applicant may not be a convicted embezzler.

*avoid* The applicant shall not be a convicted embezzler.

## **Mandates and prohibitions**

When qualifying a verb in the active voice, "shall" is used as mandatory and "may not" or "may only" as prohibitory.

*preferred* The applicant shall sign the application.

*avoid* The applicant must sign the application.

*preferred* The applicant may not submit more than one application.

*avoid* The applicant must not submit more than one application.

*avoid* The applicant shall not submit more than one application.



*preferred*

The applicant may submit only one application.

Whenever possible, use “shall” only in an imperative or mandatory sense and “may” in a permissive sense. When a right, privilege, or power is conferred, “may” should be used.

Do not use “shall” to confer a right because that implies a duty to enjoy the right.

*preferred*

The officer is entitled to an annual salary of \$40,000.

*avoid*

The officer shall receive an annual salary of \$40,000.

*preferred*

The annual salary is \$40,000.

*avoid*

The annual salary shall be \$40,000.

## **2-6. Negatives.**

“Nor” may be used alone as a conjunction or with “neither”.

Do not use “nor” in the same clause with any other negative; use “or” instead.

*correct*

There are no pens or pencils in the store-room.

*incorrect*

There are no pens *nor* pencils in the store-room.

## **2-7. Voice.**

Whenever possible, draft in the active voice instead of the passive.

*preferred*

The board shall appoint a director. (Active)

*avoid*

A director must be appointed by the board. (Passive)

The active voice gives the agent, the doer, its logical position before the verb.

## **2-8. Number.**

Use the singular instead of the plural when possible. The singular includes the plural. (See section 1-2-105(3), MCA.)

*preferred*

A defendant in a criminal action is presumed innocent until the contrary is proved.  
(Singular)

*avoid*

Defendants in criminal actions are presumed innocent until the contrary is proved.  
(Plural)

## **2-9. Articles and Demonstrative Adjectives.**

"A person who violates" is preferred to "any person who violates", "each person who violates", or "all persons who violate". Consistent use of the articles "a" or "an" results in smoother writing and more precise expression.

There are phrases that require the indefinite article to be omitted, especially after a negative. The negative supersedes the article by including it. An example is "No more expeditious way can be found", not "No more expeditious a way". Whenever possible, the extra article should be avoided.

"Such" or "said", as in "such person" or "said board", should also be avoided. "Said" is archaic and should never be used. Usually "such" can be avoided by referring to "the board", "an institution", "a person", "these laws", etc., or by employing the appropriate pronoun, such as "it". However, "such" may be occasionally needed to identify the thing to which it refers and should be used if necessary to avoid ambiguity.

## **2-10. Pronouns.**

Use a pronoun only if its antecedent (the word for which the pronoun stands) is unmistakable. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number and person.

Use a plural pronoun when the antecedent consists of two nouns joined by "and" and a singular pronoun when the antecedent consists of two singular nouns joined by "or" or "nor". When "or" or "nor" joins a singular noun and a plural noun, a pronoun should agree in number with the nearer noun. However, strict application of this rule can distort meaning, so it is usually best to try to make the construction plural.

*avoid*

The parents or guardian of a person alleged to be developmentally disabled has the right to have the person examined by a professional person of his choice ("his" supposedly refers to "guardian" but could also refer to the developmentally disabled person).

*preferred*

The parents or guardians of a person alleged to be developmentally disabled have the right to have the person examined by a professional person of their choice.

## **2-11. Gender.**

The Legislative Council has adopted a policy that all bills be drafted using gender-neutral terms. For example, in referring to a person who writes a statute, refer to the “drafter”, not the “draftsman”. An example of this type of gender neutrality can be found in the Workers’ Compensation Act, in which the term “workers’ compensation” was formerly referred to as “workmen’s compensation”. Creating an artificial gender-neutral term is unacceptable. Referring to a presiding officer as a “chair” or “chairperson” is an example of the use of an artificial designation. Use “presiding officer” instead.

Do not use gender-based pronouns. There are two easy methods that the drafter may employ to avoid using gender-based pronouns. The first method omits the use of the pronoun. For example, instead of saying “A board member is entitled to \$50 for each day that he attends a board meeting”, say “A board member is entitled to \$50 for each day of attendance at a board meeting”. The second method is to repeat the noun instead of the pronoun. For example, instead of saying “If the director determines that the plan does not meet statutory requirements, he shall adopt a temporary plan”, say “If the director determines that the plan does not meet statutory requirements, the director shall adopt a temporary plan”.

The use of a combination of gender-specific pronouns is not an acceptable method of using gender-neutral language. For example, a drafter may not use “he or she”, “his or her”, or “he/she”.

### **WAYS TO MAKE TERMS GENDER-NEUTRAL**

#### **OLD TERM**

actor  
airman  
alderman  
boatman  
bondsman  
brakeman  
brother  
brotherhood  
busboy  
businessman  
businessmen  
care of himself  
chainman

#### **GENDER-NEUTRAL TERM**

no change  
aircrew member  
city council member  
boater  
bonding agent  
brake tender  
sibling  
fraternal organization  
busperson  
business person  
business people (persons)  
provide self-care  
surveyor’s assistant



**OLD TERM**

chairman  
 clergyman  
 co-ed  
 committeeman  
 congressman  
 councilman  
 craftsman  
 dairyman  
 daughter  
 doorman  
 draftsman  
 eight-man board  
 enlisted man  
 entryman  
 father  
 ferryman  
 fieldman  
 fireman  
 fisherman  
 flagman  
 foreman  
 foreman (jury)  
 fraternal organization  
 fraternity  
 grandfather, grandmother  
 grandfather clause  
 guardsmen  
 headmaster  
 his own  
 holds himself out to be  
 housewife  
 human

**GENDER-NEUTRAL TERM**

presiding officer (not chair)  
 member of the clergy  
 student  
 committee member  
 member of the house  
     of representatives  
 council member  
 skilled worker or artisan  
 dairy producer  
 child  
 door attendant  
 drafter  
 eight-member board  
 enlisted person  
 no change  
 parent (some exceptions)  
 ferry operator  
 field worker  
 firefighter  
 angler  
 flag person  
 lead supervisor  
 jury supervisor  
 no change  
 no change  
 grandparent  
 no change  
 guard members  
 no change  
 the person's own  
 a person represents to the  
     public that the person is  
 homemaker (not housespouse)  
 no change



OLD TERM

husband  
 husbandry  
 journeyman  
 landlord  
 layman's terms  
 layman  
 maiden name  
 mailman, postman  
 manhole  
 man-induced  
 mankind  
 manmade  
  
 manned, unmanned  
 manpower  
  
 manslaughter  
 marksmanship  
 materialman's lien  
  
 matron  
 midwife  
 militiaman  
 mother  
 motorman  
 nurseryman  
 nursemaid  
 ombudsman  
 parts man  
 patrolman  
 poetess  
 policeman  
 postmaster

GENDER-NEUTRAL TERM

spouse  
 no change  
 no change  
 no change  
 plain language  
 lay person  
 birth name  
 mail carrier  
 no change  
 artificially induced  
 humanity, humankind, the  
     human race, people, society  
 artificial, synthetic, constructed,  
     manufactured (changes  
     caused by human activity)  
 staffed, unstaffed  
 personnel, staffing, workforce,  
     labor force, labor supply  
 no change  
 no change  
 use "construction lien" if  
     possible  
 jail guard  
 no change  
 militia member  
 parent (some exceptions)  
 driver  
 nursery operator  
 child-care provider  
 no change  
 parts person  
 patrol officer  
 poet  
 police officer  
 no change

**OLD TERM**

poundmaster  
quartermaster  
remainderman  
repairman

salesman, salesmen  
serviceman  
signal man  
sister  
son  
spokesman  
sportsman

statesman  
stepfather, stepmother  
stockman  
supporting himself  
thresherman  
tillerman  
tradesman  
trainman

unable to care for himself  
vestryman  
warehouseman

watchman  
weighmaster

**GENDER-NEUTRAL TERM**

no change  
no change  
no change  
repair worker  
repairer  
salesperson, salespeople  
service member  
signaler  
sibling  
child  
representative  
hunter or angler  
sports-interested person  
recreational user  
outdoor recreationist  
conservationist  
government leader  
stepparent  
stockgrower  
providing self-support  
thresher  
tiller operator  
skilled worker  
train operator  
train worker  
train crew member  
unable to provide self-care  
vestry member  
warehouse agent  
warehouse worker  
warehouse operator  
security guard  
no change

**OLD TERM****GENDER-NEUTRAL TERM**

widow, widower

surviving spouse

wife

spouse

workmanlike, workmanship

no change

workingmen

workers

yardmen

yard workers

**2-12. Redundant Adjectives and Adverbs.**

Avoid adjectives such as “real”, “true”, and “actual” and adverbs such as “duly” and “properly”. Since these ideas are normally implied, expressing them in some instances creates doubt that they are implied elsewhere. (Reed Dickerson, *Legislative Drafting*, page 87.)

*preferred*

The applicant shall write the applicant's age in the appropriate blank.

*avoid*

The applicant shall write the applicant's actual age in the appropriate blank.

**2-13. Consistency.**

To avoid confusion, the drafter must be consistent in word usage. For instance, if the drafter uses “employee” in one section, “worker” should not be used in another section merely for the sake of literary variety. (“Poetic licenses” are never issued to bill drafters.) Also, the drafter should not use the same word to denote different things.

**2-14. Provisos.**

Provisos are clauses introduced by “provided, however”, “provided that”, “provided further”, and “provided always”; they should be avoided.

The word “provided” has been so overworked in legislative drafting that it has no definite meaning. Little, if any, significance is given to the word “provided”. It must be defined by the court before it can be interpreted. “The word ‘provided’, when used in a legislative enactment, may create a condition, limitation, or exception to the Act itself, or it may be used merely as a conjunction meaning ‘and’ or ‘before’, and as to what sense the word was used must be determined from the context of the Act.” (*State ex rel. Bd. of County Comm’rs v. Bruce*, 104 M 500, 516, 69 P2d 97 (1937))

Introduce an exception or limitation with “except that”, “but”, or “however” or, better yet, simply start a new sentence. If there are many conditions or exceptions, they should be placed in a separate subsection or in a tabulated list at the end of the sentence.



## **2-15. The Exception.**

The exception is used to exempt something from the application of the law and should be stated precisely in order to describe only those persons or things intended to be excepted. The direct statement should include all persons and things to be covered by the rule. If there is a simple exception to the rule, the exception may be placed at the end of the rule.

A license must be obtained by each person except a person who:

- (1) is 65 years of age or older;
- (2) has resided in the state for less than 1 year; and
- (3) claims . . . .

The preferred construction is to place the exception in a separate subsection and incorporate it by reference into the subsection stating the rule.

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the board may . . . .
- (2) [Sections 2 through 6] do not apply to . . . .

## **2-16. Use of “That” or “Which”.**

The word “that” begins a restrictive clause that:

- (1) restricts, limits, or describes the word modified; and
- (2) is necessary to identify the word modified.

The meaning of the sentence is not complete without the “that” clause. The clause is essential rather than parenthetical, so commas should not be used to enclose the clause.

A fence that conforms to the provisions of 81-4-101 is a legal fence.

The word “which” begins a nonrestrictive clause that:

- (1) does not restrict the word modified; and
- (2) gives additional, supplemental, or descriptive information about the word modified.

The meaning of the sentence is complete without the “which” clause, so commas should be used to enclose the clause.

A fence, which may be a legal fence according to the provisions of 81-4-101, must be built within 30 days after receiving the permit.

The term “which” is relatively uncommon in good bill drafting because nonessential information is usually inappropriate for statutory language.

## **2-17. If, When, Where, or Whenever.**

The word “where” denotes place only.

If the application of a provision of an act is limited by the single occurrence of a condition that may never occur, use “if” to introduce the condition, not “when” or “where”.

If the suspect resists arrest, the officer may use force to subdue the suspect.

If the condition may occur more than once with respect to the object to which it applies, use “whenever”, not “if”, “when”, or “where”.

Whenever the officer receives a call, the time must be noted in the officer's report.

If the condition is certain to occur, use “when”, not “if”, “where”, or “whenever”.

When the statute takes effect, all pending proceedings must be dismissed.

## **2-18. Internal References.**

Prior to 1979, creation of internal references to other sections, parts, or chapters of the Code was discouraged in bill drafting because of the rule of *Gustafson v. Hammond Irrigation District*, 87 M 217, 287 P 640 (1930). In *Gustafson*, the court held that reference to a statute is as that statute existed at the time of its adoption and subsequent repeal or modification of the statute does not affect the reference to the statute in another statute. This rule had the effect of requiring the statutory researcher to trace through the Session Laws to determine when each internal reference was created and how the referenced section read at that time. At the request of the Code Commissioner, the 1979 Legislature amended section 1-2-108, MCA, to add a subsection (2) reversing the *Gustafson* rule. The use of internal references is, therefore, no longer flatly discouraged and can often be used to provide brevity. However, see *St. v. Conrad*, 197 M 406, 643 P2d 239 (1982), for discussion of the applicability of this statute to criminal matters involving retroactive application of an internal reference. (Note that the retroactivity issue was resolved by 1983 amendment subsequent to *Conrad*.) Avoid overusing internal references because it is difficult to comprehend a section of the law when it has to be read together with many other sections. For discussion of related issues, see section 2-19 below.



## **2-19. Use of "This Act".**

Use of the words "this act" should be avoided except in noncodified sections (see section 4-2). As discovered during the recodification process, "this act" often creates a problem because the word "act" must be changed to an appropriate term, such as "title", "chapter", "part", or "section". References to "this act" may be avoided by substituting references to specific bill sections that are permanent and, therefore, will be codified (e.g., "[sections 1 through 24]" when sections 25 and 26 are a repealer and an effective date).

It is particularly important to avoid use of "this act" if a bill contains amendments to existing MCA sections because technically the act includes only the deletions and/or additions to the amended MCA sections and not the remainder of those sections. Therefore, use of "this act" could cause confusion concerning its specific reference and present difficulties in changing "this act" to an MCA reference during codification. In such cases, specific references (whether to the MCA sections being amended, other MCA sections, parts, or chapters, new bill sections, or any appropriate combination thereof) must be substituted for "this act". For the same reason, when referring to an MCA section that is being amended, reference must be made to the MCA section number, not the bill section number; to refer to the bill section is to refer only to the amendment, which creates ambiguity and difficulty in codification.

This admonition does not apply to use of "this act" in temporary sections that will not be codified, such as effective date and transition sections.

## **2-20. Words to Be Avoided.**

The left-hand column of the following list includes some words and phrases that should be avoided unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Some are flowery, some are archaic, and some are vague; all lack the precision needed for clear expression. The words in the right-hand column are those that the average reader understands more readily.

### **AVOID**

absolutely null and void and of no effect

aforesaid; aforementioned; beforementioned

afforded or accorded

and/or

any and all

### **USE**

void

the; that; those (see "hereinafter")

given

either X or Y or both of them; X and Y or either of them

(either word)



**AVOID**

as (in clauses of reason)  
 at such time as  
 at the time of death  
 attorney- and counselor-at-law  
 be and the same is hereby  
 bonds, notes, checks, drafts, and  
 other evidences of  
 indebtedness  
 bring an action  
 carry out  
 chairman  
 constitute and appoint  
 deal with  
 deem  
 does not operate to  
 due to  
 during such time as  
 during the course of  
 each and all  
 employ (meaning to use)  
 enter into a contract with  
 every  
 every person; all persons  
 evidence, documentary or  
 otherwise  
 evince  
 examine witnesses and hear  
 testimony  
 fail, refuse, or neglect  
 feasible  
 formulate  
 for the duration of  
 for the purpose of  
 for the reason that  
 forthwith

**USE**

because  
 when; whenever  
 when the person dies  
 attorney  
 is  
 evidence of indebtedness  
  
 sue  
 execute; complete; administer  
 presiding officer  
 appoint  
 address; conduct  
 consider  
 does not  
 because  
 while  
 during  
 (either word)  
 use  
 contract with  
 each  
 a person  
 evidence  
 show  
 take testimony  
  
 fail  
 practicable; workable  
 make  
 during  
 for  
 because  
 immediately

**AVOID**

from and after  
 full and complete  
 full force and effect (use with regard to surety bonds)  
 give consideration to  
 give recognition to  
 have knowledge of  
 have need of  
 he or she; his or her; he/she  
 hereafter  
 hereinafter; hereinbefore; hereinabove; above; below; following; preceding  
 in case  
 in cases in which  
 in order to  
 in the event that  
 in sections 1-1-101 to 1-1-143, inclusive  
 institute; initiate  
 insure (verb, to make sure)  
 is able to  
 is applicable  
 is authorized to  
 is binding upon  
 is defined and shall be construed to mean  
 is dependent on  
 is directed to  
 is empowered to

**USE**

after  
 full  
 force; effect  
 consider  
 recognize  
 know  
 need  
 refer to the subject, "the licensee", "permitholder", etc.  
 after [the effective date of this act]; after (calendar date)  
 (these are objectionable when referring to the position of a section or other statutory provision; if reference is necessary, specify the chapter, part, section, or subsection by number)  
 if  
 when; if; whenever  
 to  
 if  
 in 1-1-101 through 1-1-143  
 begin; start  
 ensure  
 can  
 applies  
 may  
 binds  
 means  
 depends on  
 shall  
 may

**AVOID**

is hereby authorized and it shall  
be the person's duty to

is hereby vested with power and  
authority and it shall be the  
person's duty in carrying out  
the provisions of this part to

is required to

is unable to

it is the person's duty to

it is lawful to

law passed

legislative assembly

make application

make payment

make provision for

matter transmitted through the  
mail

means and includes

member of a partnership

modify

monies, moneys

Native American

necessitate

none whatever

not later than

null and void

occasion (verb)

of a technical nature

ordered, adjudged, and decreed

or, in the alternative

party

per annum

per centum

per day

**USE**

shall

shall

shall

cannot

shall

may

law enacted

legislature

apply

pay

provide for

mail

means; includes

partner

change

money

Indian

require

none; no

before

void

cause

technical

ordered

or

person (unless referring to a  
party to a suit or action)

a year

percent

a day



**AVOID**

per foot  
 per hour  
 period of time  
 person of suitable age and discretion  
 pled  
 prosecute its business  
 proven  
 provided (conjunction)  
 provided, further; provided, however; provided that  
 provision of law  
 registered or certified mail  
 render (meaning to give)  
 retain  
 revenues  
 rules and regulations  
 said (as adjective)  
 same  
 shall have the power to  
 sole and exclusive  
 speed up  
 subdivision; clause; paragraph  
 subsequent to  
 such  
 terminate  
 the place of abode  
 to wit  
 unless and until  
 until such time as  
 utilize  
 whatsoever  
 whensoever

**USE**

a foot  
 an hour  
 period; time  
 adult (or state age)  
 pleaded  
 conduct its business  
 proved  
 if; but  
 except; but; however (or start a new sentence)  
 law  
 certified mail  
 give  
 keep  
 revenue  
 rules (or, if federal, regulations)  
 the; that; those  
 it  
 may  
 exclusive  
 hasten; expedite  
 subsection  
 after  
 (do not use if an article can be used with equal clarity)  
 end  
 residence  
 (this is verbiage; delete it or use "namely")  
 unless; until  
 until  
 use  
 whatever  
 when; if; whenever

**AVOID**

wheresoever

whosoever

whomsoever

**USE**

where

whoever

(archaic; improper)

**2-21. Citations.**

(See also section 3-1(7) and examples.)

**(1) Code**

The statutes of Montana are cited as the “Montana Code Annotated” or “MCA”. The Code is arranged topically by title (see preface to the MCA) and is further subdivided into chapters, parts, and sections. Section 1-2-108, MCA, provides that a statute that refers to another portion of the Code is presumed to refer to the Montana Code Annotated. Therefore, the designation “Montana Code Annotated” or “MCA” is omitted within the Code or within material intended to be codified, but it is generally used in other references. Section 1-2-108, MCA, also provides that a reference to a portion of the Code is presumed to be a reference to that portion as it may be amended. In other words, no reference to year of enactment or amendment is necessary to cite the MCA.

- (a) in bills, “. . . as provided in Title 19, chapter 5, part 3, . . .”
- (b) in resolutions or preambles, “. . . as provided in section 19-5-401, MCA, . . .”

**(2) Montana Constitution and Federal Constitution**

The state Constitution is formally cited as “The Constitution of the State of Montana” and more usually cited as “the Montana constitution” in Code or “the Montana Constitution” in other references. The Montana Constitution is arranged topically in articles and sections.

- (a) in bills, “. . . as provided in Article IX, section 5, of the Montana constitution . . .”
- (b) in resolutions or preambles, “. . . as provided in Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution . . .”

The federal Constitution may be cited as “the United States constitution” in Code and as “the United States Constitution” in other references.

- (a) in bills, “. . . as provided in Article II, section 1, of the United States constitution . . .”
- (b) in resolutions or preambles, “. . . as provided in Article II, section 1, of the United States Constitution . . .”

### (3) Session Laws

Session laws are the compilation of all legislation passed into law by a specific legislative session. Session laws are arranged by legislative session year and are divided into chapters, which are further divided into sections.

- (a) "Chapter 5, Laws of 1999, . . ."
- (b) " . . . section 2, Chapter 5, Laws of 1999, . . ."
- (c) " . . . section 5, Chapter 1, Special Laws of June 1999, . . ."

### (4) Rules

Official rules are occasionally cited in legislation.

- (a) "Rule 4D, Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, . . ."
- (b) "Rule 26(b)(4)(A) through (4)(C), Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, . . ."
- (c) "Rule 202(b), Montana Rules of Evidence, . . ."
- (d) "ARM 4.5.101 . . ."
- (e) "Joint Rule 40-110 refers . . ."

### (5) Federal Materials

Federal materials are occasionally cited in legislation.

- (a) "18 U.S.C. 922" (no section symbol or word "section")
- (b) "42 U.S.C. 409(b) and (d)"
- (c) "Titles 10 and 32 of the United States Code"
- (d) "42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(2)(A)(ii) through (e)(2)(C)(x)"
- (e) "42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq. (1988 & Supp. II 1990), . . ."
- (f) "10 U.S.C. 672(a), (d), or (g), 10 U.S.C. 673, 10 U.S.C. 673b, . . ."
- (g) "50 App. U.S.C. 460"
- (h) "CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq., . . ."
- (i) "49 CFR, part 4, 301 and 302, federal class C, . . ."
- (j) "42 CFR, part 441, subpart G, . . ."
- (k) "21 CFR 103.31 and 23 CFR"
- (l) "Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act"
- (m) "Subchapter IV of the Social Security Act"
- (n) "subchapter S. of the Internal Revenue Code"
- (o) "section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code . . ."
- (p) "Public Law 100-485"
- (q) "section 2 of Public Law 99-145"

### (6) Miscellaneous

- (a) "supreme court Order No. 86-223, dated . . ."
- (b) "Initiative Measure No. 5"
- (c) "House Bill No. 567, Laws of 1989, . . ." (old appropriation bills)
- (d) "Cause No. CV-78-110-BLG-JDS (D. Mont.)"



# Chapter 3

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## Form Guide

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### Capitalization, Punctuation, and Abbreviation

#### 3-1. Capitalization.

Capitalization rules for bill drafting represent an exception to standard usage. In drafting bills, capitalize as little as possible. Capitalization has no legal significance, and the lower case is easier to read and write.

Capitalization is clerically controlled, in accordance with the rules that follow, by the Legislative Services Division staff when bills are prepared for introduction.

(1) Capitalize the first word in a sentence. The first word in each subsection following a colon must also be capitalized if each item expresses a complete thought and follows a complete introductory sentence.

(2) Capitalize months and days of the week.

(3) Capitalize names of specific publications, such as "*North American Industry Classification System—United States, 1997*" or "*Survey of Current Business*".

(4) Capitalize "Montana" (but not "state") in "state of Montana". Capitalize "County" but not "city" in the name of a county or city, such as "Cascade County", "Cascade and Chouteau Counties", or "city of Great Falls".

(5) Capitalize names of specific persons or places, such as "Charles Marion Russell", "Rocky Mountains", or "Sluice Boxes state park", and specific national regions, such as "Pacific Northwest". Capitalize geographic names, such as Flathead Valley (but not "community college") in "Flathead Valley community college". Do not capitalize words that indicate state geographic locations, such as "northern Montana".

(6) Capitalize names of historic events, such as "World War II", and holidays, such as "Christmas Day" and "Washington's Birthday".

(7) Capitalize references to a statute compilation, such as “MCA”. Do not capitalize “the statutes”, “the codes”, or “the Montana constitution” unless the full and exact title is used (e.g., The Constitution of the State of Montana). Do not capitalize the words “chapter” or “section” when referring to the Code or the Constitution, but capitalize the name of a particular title in the Code, such as “Title 19”; the name of an article in the Constitution, such as “Article V, The Legislature”; and a chapter in the Session Laws, such as “Chapter 5, Laws of 1999”. Also, capitalize and spell out such terms as “Montana Rules of Civil Procedure”.

## Citation Examples

### 1. Code

- (a) “. . . as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 2, . . .”
- (b) “. . . as provided in chapter 6, part 1, of this title . . .” or “. . . As provided in Title 3, chapter 6, part 1, . . .”
- (c) “. . . as provided in part 3 of this chapter . . .”
- (d) “. . . as provided in 19-5-401 . . .”
- (e) in resolutions or preambles, “. . . as provided in section 19-5-401, MCA, . . .”

### 2. Constitution

- (a) in Code, “. . . as provided in Article IX, section 5, of the Montana constitution . . .”
- (b) in Code, “. . . 5th and 14th amendments to the United States constitution . . .”
- (c) in resolutions or preambles, “. . . as provided in Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution . . .”

### 3. Session Laws

- (a) “Chapter 5, Laws of 1999, . . .”
- (b) “. . . section 2, Chapter 5, Laws of 1999, . . .”
- (c) “. . . section 5, Chapter 1, Special Laws of June 1999, . . .”

### 4. Rules

- (a) “Rule 4D, Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, . . .”
- (b) “Rule 202(b), Montana Rules of Evidence, . . .”
- (c) “ARM 4.5.101 . . .”

(8) Capitalize names of races, citizens, and languages, such as “the tribal councils of the respective Indian tribes”, “Spanish”, or “French”.

(9) Capitalize words pertaining to deity, such as “Almighty God”.



(10) Capitalize the name of a particular act, such as “Montana Major Facility Siting Act”.

(11) Do not capitalize official titles of state, county, or municipal officers, agencies, or institutions, such as “governor”, “department of transportation”, “board of county commissioners”, or “Montana state university-northern”. The same style is used for officers, agencies, or institutions at the federal level, such as “president”, “U.S. department of agriculture”, “congress”, or “supreme court”, and for national organizations, such as “American red cross”.

(12) Do not capitalize a class designation, such as “class one”, unless it begins a sentence. However, this rule does not apply to railroad classifications, to hunting or fishing license classifications, or to state land classifications, i.e., “Class III railroads”, “Class A-1 fishing license”, or “Class 1 land”. (See section 3-14.)

(13) Do not capitalize “subchapter” or “section” when referring to the Internal Revenue Code, such as “subchapter S. of Chapter 1” or “section 985, Internal Revenue Code”.

Because a resolution is usually a more formal document and because the resolution itself is presented or mailed to an agency or person and is not printed in the Code, standard capitalization rules are followed when drafting a resolution. Examples are “State of Montana”, “Department of Agriculture”, “Department”, “Legislative Branch”, “Montana University System”, “Legislature”, and “Montana Congressional Delegation”.

### **3-2. Punctuation.**

Punctuation generally is not considered part of a statute and therefore is subordinate to the text. However, courts do look to punctuation to ascertain meaning if the language is unclear. Therefore, in addition to striving for clear expression through the proper use of words, the drafter should employ correct punctuation to support the words and avoid ambiguity.

#### **(1) Comma**

If a sentence consists of two independent clauses, each with subject and predicate, use a comma before the conjunction.

The commission shall report annually to the governor, and it must have the report printed for public distribution.

An exception to this rule occurs when a sentence starts with a dependent clause that applies to both independent clauses that follow. No comma separates the independent clauses because it would make the introductory dependent clause seem to apply only to the first independent clause.



If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the governor's recommendation is considered not approved and the bill is returned to the governor for further consideration.

Do not use a comma to separate two predicates joined by a coordinating conjunction.

The commission shall report annually to the governor and must have the report printed for public distribution.

Set off a parenthetical phrase or clause with two commas.

The report, which must be approved by a majority of the commission members, must be sent to the governor before July 1 of each year.

When "or" introduces a word or a phrase that identifies or explains the preceding word, set off the explanatory expression with commas.

Set off parenthetical, or nonessential, elements with commas.

However, if "or" introduces an alternative thought, the expression is not parenthetical and should not be set off by commas.

The punctuation depends on whether the item is parenthetical or essential.

Words, phrases, or clauses in a series are separated by commas.

The department shall provide the board with reasonably necessary supplies, equipment, and clerical services.

A comma is used before the conjunction connecting the last two members of a series.

... wheat, corn, barley, and rye.

When a series is followed by a verb or phrase that is unmistakably applicable to the entire series, a comma is incorrect after the last word of the series.

*correct*

Wheat, cattle, timber, and coal are some of the state's major exports.

However, if there is ambiguity or danger of connecting only the last item of the series with what follows, rewrite the sentence to clarify the meaning.

*incorrect*                      The revenue generated by wheat, cattle, timber, and coal alone will account for the greatest portion of income.

*correct*                        The greatest portion of income will be derived from the revenue generated by wheat, cattle, timber, and coal.

*correct*                        The greatest portion of income will be derived from the revenue generated from the following sources:  
                                      (1) wheat;  
                                      (2) cattle;  
                                      (3) timber; and  
                                      (4) coal.

Do not set off an essential clause with a comma. An essential clause is one that is necessary to the meaning of the sentence and cannot be omitted.

*correct*                        Application must be made by July 1 if a permit is wanted.

*incorrect*                      Application must be made by July 1, if a permit is wanted.

*correct*                        An insurer may not disburse \$100 or more unless a signed voucher is received.

*incorrect*                      An insurer may not disburse \$100 or more, unless a signed voucher is received.

## **(2) Semicolon**

Use the semicolon between two main clauses not joined by one of the simple coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, nor).

Letters and other private communications in writing belong to the person to whom they are addressed and delivered; however, they cannot be published against the will of the writer.

Also use the semicolon to separate two or more coordinate elements, one or both of which contain commas, when needed for clarity.

The probation officer in each county shall assist the conciliation court; but the court, with the consent of both parties, may make independent investigations.

The presence of the coordinating conjunction "but" in the second example would permit the use of a comma to separate the two main clauses if there were no commas in the second clause.

Use the semicolon to separate coordinate elements in a series introduced by a colon when those elements are dependent clauses or phrases. (See example under "Colon" below.)

### **(3) Colon**

A colon is used most often in legislative drafting to introduce a series, usually in outline form.

Each policy must contain:

- (1) the names of the parties to the contract;
- (2) the subject of the insurance; and
- (3) the risks insured against.

A colon also may be used to introduce a long quotation.

### **(4) Parentheses and Brackets**

Use commas in preference to parentheses when possible. However, occasionally parentheses will serve to clarify the meaning of a sentence.

Two or more counties may apply for funds for construction (and operation and maintenance when permitted) under [sections 4 and 5].

Do not use brackets as punctuation. Use brackets to enclose internal references, "this act", and effective dates. Also, brackets are used in the Code to denote erroneous material or material needing amendment or replacement.

### **(5) Quotation Marks**

In American usage, printers usually place a period or comma inside closing quotation marks whether it belongs logically to the quoted matter or to the whole sentence or context. In bill drafting, clarity is more important than usual, so a period or a comma should be placed outside quotation marks if it does not belong to the quoted matter. In drafting, always use double quotes.

Do not overuse quotation marks. Generally, in legislative drafting, quotation marks are used only to enclose titles or texts of acts or laws referred to or incorporated by reference, to enclose defined words or phrases, or to enclose amended Code sections. However, names of acts are not quoted in the title of a bill or resolution.

(4) The state of Montana accepts and assents to the terms and provisions of the act of congress, approved May 8, 1914, entitled "An Act to Provide for Cooperative Agricultural Extension Work".

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DEFINING "GAME"  
TO INCLUDE THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH."



(7) "Game" means game animals and game birds, the killing of which is restricted by the laws of Montana.

Section 1-1-218, MCA, is amended to read:

**"1-1-218. Words giving joint authority.** Words giving a joint authority to three or more public officers or other persons are construed as giving such authority to a majority of them unless it is otherwise expressed in the act ~~code~~ giving the authority."

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT TO INCLUDE  
...."

### **3-3. Abbreviation.**

Abbreviations are seldom used in legislative writing and should be avoided, except in two instances. "Montana Code Annotated" should be abbreviated to "MCA", and "1 p.m." is preferred to "1:00 o'clock p.m.". Do not add "MCA" to a Code section number within the text of a section of the Code. (See section 1-2-108(1), MCA, which provides that it is presumed that the section number refers to the Montana Code Annotated.)

## **Numbers**

### **3-4. General.**

Numbers one through nine are spelled out, and numbers 10 and over are written in numerals. (However, note the exceptions in sections 3-5 through 3-16 below.) Numbers at the beginning of a sentence should be spelled out.

five, 22, 1,000, 1 million, 1.5 billion

Fifteen members serve on the committee.

### **3-5. Money.**

6 mills, 0.02 cent, 0.5 cent, 1 cent, 1 ½ cents, 25 cents, \$1, \$25, \$37.50, \$100, \$2,000, \$25,000, \$1.25 million, \$1,300,000, \$3 million, \$3.5 million

### **3-6. Measurements.**

2 inches (feet, yards, meters, acres, etc.)

8 feet 2 inches

2 feet x 3 inches

15 x 30 feet (but a "15- by 30-foot room")

5 pounds (bushels, barrels, gallons, etc.)

3 acres (horsepower, etc.)

35 degrees F

**3-7. Age.**

6 years old

52 years, 10 months, 6 days

a 3-year-old child

65th birthday

“a person who is 18 years of age or older” (not “over 18 years of age”)

“a person who is under 6 years of age”

“a person who is 18 years of age or older and under 66 years of age”  
(not “between the ages of 18 and 65”)

**3-8. Time.**

3 days

5th day

2 weeks

1 month

2 ½ months

3 fiscal years

noon (not “12 noon”)

midnight (not “12 midnight”)

9 a.m. (not “9:00 a.m.” or “9:00 o’clock a.m.”)

1 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

half an hour

**3-9. Percentages.**

0.3%

3%, 25%

¾ of 1%

½ of 1% or 0.5% (not “½%”)

57.5%

2 percentage points

An irregular fraction should not be expressed as a decimal — 1/3 of 1% (not 0.333%) and 8 1/3% (not 8.333%).

In a bill title spell out the word “percent” — do not use the symbol.

**3-10. Unit Modifiers.**

5-day week (measurement)

10-year sentence (measurement)

1-year term (measurement)

five-person board (not unit of measurement)

1-, 2-, and 3-year terms (but “term of 5 years”)

four-wheel-drive vehicle

20-cent raise (but “\$1 million limit”)

### **3-11. Ordinals.**

First through ninth are spelled out; 10th and over are numerals. See also sections 3-13 and 3-14.

first term  
fourth amendment, 15th amendment  
15th birthday  
35th day

### **3-12. Fractions.**

Fractions standing alone or followed by “of a” or “of an” are spelled out, such as “one-half day”, “one fifty-sixth”, or “three-fourths of an inch”. Mixed fractions are written in numerals, such as “2 ½ times”. (This rule holds true even in measurements, but see exception under “Percentages” in section 3-9.)

In a unit modifier, use figures, such as “½-inch pipe” or “¾-ton truck” (in other words, no double hyphen).

### **3-13. Numbers in Series.**

Figures are used in a group of two or more numbers when any one is 10 or greater: “The farm has 3 cows and 12 sheep.”

### **3-14. Classes, Grades, Etc.**

property tax classification — class one, class twelve  
milk control — class III  
hazardous waste management facility — class III  
mustard seed — class 2, No. 3  
oranges — United States No. 2 grade  
handicapped levels — Level I—a pupil  
compensation plan No. 2  
school grades are expressed: “1st grade”, “2nd grade”, “12th grade”  
dams — class C  
hunting and trapping licenses — Class A-6, Class C-2  
fishing license — Class A, Class B-4  
railroads — Class III  
state lands — Class 4

### **3-15. Dates — Fiscal Years.**

Dates should be expressed as follows:

December 31 (not “December 31st” or “31st day of December”)  
December 31, 2002, (with comma following year in a complete date,  
unless at end of sentence)  
December 2002  
October, November, and December 2002  
2002-03



A period of time is often expressed as follows:

“For the period beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, . . .”

“For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, . . .”

“For the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003, . . .”

“For fiscal years 2002 and 2003, . . .”

“For school fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2002, . . .”

An effective date of July 1 should be expressed as follows: “after June 30, 2001” or “effective July 1, 2001”. (“From July 1, 2001”, “after July 1”, or “between July 1 and” might be construed to mean a beginning date of July 2 and should be avoided.)

It is better to refer to a day rather than to the time that an event will occur, such as “90 days after the day on which judgment is entered”, not “90 days after the time . . .”. Usually, a period is measured in whole days, not the time of day.

### **3-16. Bill Titles and Catchlines.**

In bill titles, follow the above rules. In catchlines, do not use figures; spell out numbers unless it is a date or a very large number. Words look better than numbers in boldface.

## Chapter 4

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# The Bill and Its Parts

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### 4-1. Introduction.

A bill is a proposed law as introduced in the Legislature. The bill does not become a law (an “act” or “statute”) until passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor or passed over the Governor’s veto. If the Governor does not sign or veto a bill within 10 days after receiving it, it becomes a law without signature.

A bill that has become a law is delivered to the Secretary of State, who assigns a chapter number to it in the order that the bill is received by that office. All laws that pass in any one legislative session are first published in the order of passage in a publication entitled *Laws of Montana* (Year). This publication is referred to as the Session Laws. All permanent new provisions are assigned Code section numbers by the Code Commissioner’s staff and are incorporated into the Montana Code Annotated.

The proper form and arrangement of a bill have been defined primarily by custom. The Montana Constitution speaks of bill titles in Article V, section 11; section 5-4-101, MCA, prescribes the form of the enacting clause. None of the other bill parts are mandated by law or rule. However, the following form is now used by the Legislative Services Division. By legislative rule, all bills, before they are introduced, must comply with the format, style, and legal form prescribed by the Legislative Services Division. Bills not prepared by the Legislative Services Division staff must be reviewed by that staff and entered on the automated bill drafting system before introduction; this system and procedure are further explained in Chapter 10.

### 4-2. Bill Arrangement.

(\* a mandatory part of a bill)

#### 1. Bill Identification\*

- (a) bill draft number
- (b) House or Senate designation and number
- (c) sponsor line
- (d) “By Request . . .” line

2. Title\*
3. Preamble
4. Enacting Clause\*
5. Body\*

#### *Codified*

- (a) short title
- (b) purpose section
- (c) definitions
- (d) basic provisions
- (e) penalty

#### *Noncodified*

- (f) repealer
- (g) transfer of funds
- (h) appropriation
- (i) unfunded mandate laws superseded
- (j) notification to tribal governments
- (k) extraordinary vote required
- (l) codification instruction
- (m) coordination instruction
- (n) saving clause
- (o) severability clause or  
nonseverability clause
- (p) effective date
- (q) applicability
- (r) termination

### **Explanation of Bill Parts**

(See Appendix P for form.)

#### **4-3. Bill Identification.**

##### **(1) Bill Draft Number**

The number appearing at the top right-hand corner of a bill, such as "LC 0001.01", is the number assigned by the Legislative Services Division staff as the bill request is received. The LC number is used to identify the bill during the drafting process prior to the time of introduction and assignment of a bill number.

##### **(2) Designation and Number**

The blank preceding the words "BILL NO." is used to identify the bill as a House or Senate bill, and the blank following is used to number the bill. The blanks are filled in manually by the Chief Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate at the time of introduction.



### (3) Sponsor Line

The second line of a bill is used to identify the sponsor. The sponsor signs the bill prior to introduction. If there is more than one sponsor, the chief sponsor signs first. Bills may be sponsored jointly by a Senate and a House member. Both of these members are considered a "chief sponsor" for the jointly sponsored bill. If the bill is introduced in the Senate, it becomes a Senate bill and the Senate chief sponsor signs first. This procedure is reversed if the bill is introduced in the House.

### (4) By Request Line

Joint Rule 40-40 provides that if a bill is proposed by a legislative committee or is introduced by request of a state agency, that fact must be indicated by inserting "By Request of the \_\_\_\_\_" following the names of the sponsors.

57th Legislature

LC 0001.01

\_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

BY REQUEST OF THE \_\_\_\_\_

## 4-4. Title.

### (1) General

The title identifies the bill to the legislators and the public and must clearly summarize the contents of the bill. The drafter should be familiar with the substantial body of case law that has developed over defects in titles.

Article V, section 11(3), of the Montana Constitution provides:

Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

The main purpose of the constitutional provision is to ensure that the title of a bill gives reasonable notice of the content to legislators and the public. It also prevents multisubject legislation from being passed by the combined votes of the advocates of separate measures when no single measure could be passed on its own merits. The Montana Supreme Court has interpreted this provision to require a clause in the title to reflect an issue that would be considered important by legislators voting on the bill. *White v. St.*, 233 M 81, 759 P2d 971 (1988).

Title challenges under this section of the Constitution may be brought on the grounds that either the title or the body of the bill

indicates that the bill contains more than one subject or the title does not clearly express the subject of the bill, or both.

The Montana Supreme Court has considered the question of sufficiency of title numerous times. In order to more fully comprehend title drafting problems, the drafter should read the cases cited in this section or at least review the case notes and Attorney General's opinions contained in the MCA Annotations to Article V, section 11, of the Montana Constitution. Under the 1972 Constitution, if a law is challenged as having a defective title, the action must be brought within 2 years after the effective date of the law.

### **(2) Exceptions to Sufficiency of Title Provision**

As stated in Article V, section 11(3), of the Montana Constitution, general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws are exempt from the unity of subject and clear expression of subject rules.

### **(3) General Appropriation Bills**

In order to fall within the exception referred to in (2), an appropriation bill must be a general appropriation bill; that is, it may embrace nothing but appropriations for "the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools". (See Article V, section 11(4), of the Montana Constitution.) Further, an incidental provision in an appropriation bill must be germane to the appropriation if it is to fall within the exception. The Supreme Court has held that provisions relating to the expenditure of the money appropriated or its accounting may be included in an appropriation bill without being mentioned in the title (*State ex rel. Davidson v. Ford*, 115 M 165, 171, 141 P2d 373 (1943)). However, in *Helena v. Omholt*, 155 M 212, 468 P2d 764 (1970), the Supreme Court said, "... appropriation bills should not be held to amend substantive statutes by implication. . . . Such tactics are recognized as exceedingly bad legislative practice." (The appropriation bill in question contained a section that was irreconcilable with an existing statute, and the lower court had held that the appropriation measure, being a later bill, impliedly repealed the earlier statute.) The Attorney General relied on *Helena v. Omholt* in finding that a provision in the 1981 general appropriations act should not be given effect because it was in conflict with a permanent substantive statute. Therefore, provisions other than actual appropriations should be included in a general appropriation bill only if germane to expenditure or accounting and consistent with permanent substantive law.

### **(4) General Revision**

In *State ex rel. Cotter v. District Court*, 49 M 146, 150, 140 P 732 (1914), the Supreme Court said that a bill whose plain purpose was to revise the laws on a particular subject, as well as an omnibus revision bill covering many subjects, is within the revision exception.



In the past, the Supreme Court has found that certain bills come within the general revision exception although the titles do not specifically designate the bills as such. To date, the Supreme Court has always found a bill within the exception when the title indicated that the bill was a general revision.

If a bill is intended to be a general revision, the title should so state.

"AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING THE LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AMENDING . . ."

### **(5) Including List of Amended or Repealed Sections in Title**

There is diversity of opinion as to whether reference by number only to a Code section to be amended or repealed is sufficient in a title. However, all authorities agree that the title is sufficient if the number of the section to be amended or repealed and an indication of the subject matter of the amendment or repeal are included in the title. "Reference in the title of the amendatory Act to the subject matter of the section to be amended need not be so comprehensive as to constitute a complete index to or abstract of the section. 'All that is required in such case is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the statute to be amended.'" (See *St. v. Duncan*, 74 M 428, 437, 240 P 978 (1925).)

Therefore, the title of a bill should both indicate the general purpose of the amendment and list the Code sections amended or repealed. The section numbers must be listed in numerical order.

"AN ACT AMENDING THE LAWS RELATING TO THE SALE OF LANDS FOR TAXES BY COUNTY TREASURERS; AMENDING SECTIONS 8-1-101 AND 8-1-102, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 8-1-109 AND 8-1-110, MCA."

If the only purpose of a bill is to repeal one or more sections, the title should indicate the subject matter and list the section numbers.

"AN ACT DELETING THE DEFINITION OF "REGISTERED MAIL"; AND REPEALING SECTION 1-1-202, MCA."

### **(6) Appropriation in Title**

In *Hill v. Rae*, 52 M 378, 158 P 826 (1916), the Supreme Court held that when an appropriation is incidental to the larger single subject of legislation, it need not be made by separate bill. In order to facilitate legislative handling of appropriations, it is necessary to mention the appropriation in the title. If a bill is a statutory appropriation (section 17-7-502, MCA), that fact must also be included in the title.

### **(7) Including Effective Dates in Title**

It is necessary to include effective dates, other than October 1, in the title, such as:



## PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

*or*

## PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE

*or*

## PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE

*or*

## PROVIDING A CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE

If a specific effective date is not provided, an appropriation law becomes effective on July 1 following passage and approval. A statute providing for the taxation or imposition of a fee on motor vehicles becomes effective on January 1 following passage and approval unless a different effective date is specified. All other statutes take effect on October 1.

**(8) Short Bill Title**

One of the main ways to identify a bill, in addition to the bill number itself, is the short bill title. The short bill title is limited to a length of 80 characters (letters, hyphens, and spaces between words). The short bill title almost always accompanies the bill number when information about bills is displayed either in reports or by online applications, such as the LAWS (Legislative Automated Workflow System) Internet application.

For example, the short bill title accompanies the bill number when bills are listed on the Senate and House agendas, on the hearing calendars published in the newspapers, and on the daily status reports. Virtually every online listing of bills on the LAWS Internet application includes the short bill title for clarification.

The short bill title is originally written by the Legal Services Director when a bill draft request is first entered on the online LAWS system. When the assigned drafter completes an initial bill draft, the drafter uses a macro (discussed elsewhere in this manual) to update the LAWS system with a revised short bill title and other information, if necessary. The macro will not allow the user to type more than 80 characters in the short bill title field.

The short bill title typically begins with an active verb, such as "Revise", "Establish", "Provide", "Allow", "Remove", "Extend", etc., or with a qualifying adverb, such as "Generally Revise". It may include abbreviations. The short bill title does not include the formal bill title introduction ("A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: 'AN ACT ...'") or a listing of the sections amended or repealed.

#### **4-5. Preamble.**

The preamble, which is optional, follows the title and precedes the enacting clause. Because of its placement, it is not part of the text of the act and does not become a part of the law. It is a preliminary statement of the reasons for the enactment of the law and begins with the word "WHEREAS". A preamble may be used as an extrinsic aid in construing a law.

WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution requires that all executive and administrative offices and instrumentalities of the Executive Branch of state government be allocated by law among not more than 20 departments . . .

(See section 4-8 for discussion of purpose sections.)

#### **4-6. Enacting Clause.**

The enacting clause, which is prescribed by law, separates the identification portion of the bill from the body of the bill.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

#### **4-7. Short Title.**

A short title is not suitable for all enactments; however, if an act creates new law in a definable area, a short title enables quick future identification. When used, the short title appears as section 1 of the bill. Do not include a year in the short title.

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 17] may be cited as the "Reclamation and Development Grants Program Act".

#### **4-8. Purpose Section.**

Courts have relied on purpose sections to construe unclear and ambiguous language. Of course, clear and unambiguous language is always preferable to reliance on a purpose section. A well-drafted act should not require an extraneous statement to recite reasons for its enactment or what it seeks to accomplish. However, occasionally it is necessary to express the reason prompting enactment or the policy or purpose of an act. A good example is when the statute imposes a burden on a particular class of persons, thus requiring at least a rational basis for treating them differently from other persons. In *Oberg v. Billings*, 207 M 277, 674 P2d 494 (1983), the Montana Supreme Court stated that "While the courts are seldom concerned with the wisdom of legislation, the purpose of the legislation is of vital concern where the constitutionality of a statute is challenged as a denial of equal protection." If a purpose section is preferred to a preamble, it becomes a



part of the law. The purpose should be stated concisely at the beginning of the bill following the enacting clause (or short title, if there is one). If a purpose section is necessary, it should be carefully and thoughtfully drafted.

#### **4-9. Definitions.**

(1) To avoid repetition and to ensure clarity, a well-drafted bill often contains a definition section that precedes the basic provisions of the bill. A definition section is of definite advantage to:

(a) define a general term in order to avoid its frequent repetition, such as ““Employee deductions” means all authorized deductions made from the salary and wages of an officer or employee of a state agency.”;

(b) avoid repeating the full title of an officer or of an agency, such as ““Board” means the board of environmental review.”;

(c) give an exact meaning to a word that has several dictionary meanings;

(d) define a technical word that has no popular meaning in commonly understood language; and

(e) limit the meaning of a term that, if not defined, would have a broader meaning than intended.

(2) (a) Do not define a word if it is used in the sense of its ordinary dictionary meaning.

(b) Certain words are defined in Title 1, chapter 1, MCA. If a word is used in the same sense as it is defined in that chapter, it is unnecessary to define it again in a bill. There are also definition sections that apply to entire titles, such as section 45-2-101, MCA (Criminal Code), or to several chapters, such as section 72-1-103, MCA (Probate Code).

(c) Section 1-2-107, MCA, provides: “Whenever the meaning of a word or phrase is defined in any part of this code, such definition is applicable to the same word or phrase wherever it occurs, except where a contrary intention plainly appears.” A drafter may wish to preclude the effect of section 1-2-107, MCA, by stating a “contrary intention” through such language as “For purposes of this part [chapter, title] only, the following definitions apply.”

(3) The drafter should adhere scrupulously to normal usage of a term. If it is necessary to use a fiction, it should be so labeled.

*Do not say:*

The word “automobile” includes trucks, power boats, and airplanes.

*Say:*

In this chapter, trucks, power boats, and airplanes are treated as if they were automobiles.



- (4) Definitions must be arranged alphabetically.
- (5) Do not include substantive provisions in definition sections.
- (6) After a word is defined, use the defined word, not the description or a synonym.
- (7) If there are definitions already in the Code that you want to apply to your bill, draft a provision so stating (e.g., “mental disorder, as defined in 53-21-102”. Don’t refer to the subsection in which the definition is contained, such as “53-21-102(7)”, because definition sections are always in alphabetical order and subsection numbers are often affected by amendment.). If appropriate, draft a codification instruction incorporating the new act into the chapter or part of the Code where the definitions are already contained. Do not repeat the definitions. (See discussion in section 4-18.)
- (8) Do not define a word that is never used in the bill!

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 12], the following definitions apply:

- (1) “Board” means the board of oil and gas conservation provided for in 2-15-3303.
- (2) “Department” means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.
- (3) “Person” means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, estate, or any other entity.

#### **4-10. Basic Provisions.**

A bill that only amends or repeals existing laws may not present any organizational problem; sections of the Montana Code Annotated are amended in numerical order. However, an act that creates a new body of law must be thoughtfully organized. From the standpoint of organization, bills containing all new material are of three types. These bills may contain:

- (1) one main provision supported by subordinate provisions;
- (2) several related main provisions, some of which have subordinate provisions; or
- (3) a series of related and equal provisions all dealing with one subject.

##### **(1) One Main Provision**

Most new legislation is concerned with just one main idea and falls within the first type. Generally, the substantive provisions of an act (Section 4 in the example below) will be followed by the authority that is to administer it and then by the means to make it effective (Sections 5 and 6 in the example below).

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Registration of tramways required.** A passenger tramway may not be operated in this state unless it is registered with the board . . . .

**NEW SECTION. Section 5. Powers and duties of board.** The board shall:

(1) adopt rules to implement the provisions of [sections 1 through 12];

(2) hold hearings relating to the granting, suspension, or revocation of the registration; and

(3) grant registration and issue registration certificates to applicants who have complied with [sections 1 through 12] and rules adopted under [sections 1 through 12].

**NEW SECTION. Section 6. Remedies to enforce compliance.** If an operator fails to comply with an order or rule of the board, the board may:

(1) suspend or revoke the registration of the tramway . . . ;

(2) bring injunctive proceedings . . . .

Do not include unnecessary procedural provisions that are already contained in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the Administrative Rules of Montana, or court rules.

## **(2) Several Related Main Provisions**

Each main provision with its related subordinate divisions should be separate from the other main provisions and drafted in detail as if it constituted the entire bill.

## **(3) Series of Related and Equal Provisions**

Bills containing equal provisions relating to a common subject are arranged in a logical order.

## **4-11. New Material — Catchlines.**

Provisions used to create new law in an area not covered by present statutes are referred to as “new material”. The basic provisions of a new law should be divided into sections, each of which contains one idea or thought.

Each section must begin with a caption or “catchline”. With the exception of the Uniform Commercial Code, catchlines are not part of the law. (See sections 1-11-103 and 30-1-109, MCA.) In the past, catchlines usually were added by the codifier, but the present rule is to add a catchline during the drafting process for convenience and readability. (If a bill is enacted without catchlines, the Code Commissioner’s staff will add the catchlines when the new sections are codified.) The catchline should be as brief as possible and clearly show what the section topic is. If the drafter feels that the catchline must be quite long to cover the meaning of the section, the section itself is



probably too broad. If more than one thought is set forth in a catchline, each thought is separated by a dash. The catchline should not be a complete sentence.

In new material, internal references to other sections of the bill that are new sections should be bracketed. The Code Commissioner's staff will insert the proper Code section number before the Code is printed. (See section 4-18 for discussion of how the placement of new material in the Code is determined.)

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Department head — appointment — powers and duties.** (1) The governor shall appoint each department head.

(2) Each department head shall supervise, direct, account for, organize, plan, administer, and execute the functions vested in the department in accordance with 86-1-101, 86-1-102, and [section 20].

#### **4-12. Amendatory Material.**

Sections of a bill amending present law are arranged in numerical order by Code section number. There must be a separate bill section for each Code section amended. The brief, simple amending clause should be used. ("Section \_\_\_\_, MCA, is amended to read:") The Joint Rules provide: "In a section amending an existing statute, matter to be stricken out must be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter must be underlined." (See Joint Rule 10-130.) This means that new material added to an existing Code section is underlined; new material that will become an entirely new Code section is not underlined and is designated "**NEW SECTION**".

**Section 5.** Section 2-17-301, MCA, is amended to read:

**"2-17-301. Supervision of mailing facilities.** The controller department shall maintain and supervise any central mailing facilities."

The Joint Rules also provide: "A statute may not be amended or its provisions extended by reference to its title only, but the statute section that is amended or extended must be reproduced or published at length." (See Joint Rule 40-80.) The question of whether a subsection may be amended without setting out the entire parent section at length has never been adjudicated in Montana. (Ease of amendment is just one more reason for dividing new law into short, concise sections.) The computerized updating of the statute database requires that an entire section be amended, not just a subsection. As noted earlier, all bills not prepared by the Legislative Services Division staff must be reviewed by the staff and entered on the automated bill drafting system before introduction. The Legislative Services Division staff prefers that all bills be submitted for review in the manner described in section 1-6.



If it is necessary to amend Session Laws, the drafter must refer to the session law chapter number. (See Appendix E for examples of bills amending Session Laws.)

The Secretary of State assigns chapter numbers to the laws after they are signed by the Governor. (See section 5-11-204, MCA.)

#### **4-13. Designating New Sections.**

Any section that does not amend Code, Session Laws, the Constitution, or Administrative Rules of Montana must be designated "**NEW SECTION**". This designation includes noncodified sections, such as repealers and effective dates, and sections in bills containing all new material.

#### **4-14. Short Form Amendments.**

When a name change is made in a bill, the drafter must search the MCA for that term. (See Appendix S.) Each section that contains an occurrence of the term must be amended in the bill to reflect the name change.

Also, a section must be included in the bill that directs the Code Commissioner to make the name change by short form amendment wherever a reference to the term appears in legislation that is enacted or amended by the 2001 Legislature.

**NEW SECTION. Section 10. Name change — directions to code commissioner.** Except for [section 4 of this act], wherever a reference to "master plan", "comprehensive plan", or "comprehensive development plan" appears in legislation that is enacted or amended by the 2001 legislature and when any of those terms refer to the plan authorized by Title 76, chapter 1, the code commissioner is directed to change the term to an appropriate reference to a "growth policy".

#### **4-15. Outline Style.**

There is no rule fixing the length of a section. Generally, a section should include only a single idea. The shorter the section, the more quickly it may be understood and the easier it is to amend if amendment is needed. If the drafter finds it difficult to phrase a brief catchline for the section, it is likely that there are too many ideas in the section. Each paragraph in a bill must be given a section or subsection designation. Outline order for subsections is as follows:

- (1) If (1) is used, there must be a (2).
- (2)
- (3)
- (a) If (a) is used, there must be a (b).
- (b)
- (c)

- (i) If (i) is used, there must be a (ii).
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (A) If (A) is used, there must be a (B).
- (B)
- (C)
- (I) If (I) is used, there must be a (II).
- (II)
- (III)
- (4)

Only the second-to-last item of a series should have an “and” or an “or” (e.g., (a), (b), or (c)).

Sections or subsections are indented except when the (1) follows the catchline. If there is a lead-in phrase or sentence that ends with a colon and is followed by a (1), that (1) is indented.

**22-1-101. Duties of board.** (1) The board shall adopt rules relating to public safety . . . .

(2) The board shall hold hearings . . . .

**22-1-101. Duties of board.** The board, under the provisions of 15-2-102, shall:

- (1) adopt rules relating to public safety . . . ;
- (2) hold hearings; and
- (3) arrange all meetings.

When a complete sentence follows a dependent clause within a subsection, the dependent clause and the sentence end with periods.

The board shall:

- (1) adopt rules relating to public safety;
- (2) hold hearings. The hearings may not be longer than 1 hour in duration.
- (3) arrange all meetings.

Note that when a sentence is added to the next-to-last outline designation, the coordinating conjunction (“and” or “or”) is lost. The drafter may wish to insert language in the lead-in to specify that “any” or “all” of the following outline designations apply or may wish to reorder the outline designations to keep the coordinating conjunction.

If material preceding a colon is a complete thought and each of a numbered (and indented) series can stand alone, the first letter is capitalized and the sentence ends with a period. Otherwise, the first letter is in lowercase and the sentence ends with a semicolon; if some but not all of the first letters must be capitalized (for instance, “Montana”), try to rearrange those phrases so that they begin with a lowercase word.

**4-1-101. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Bonds" includes all instruments representing indebtedness, the borrowing of money, or a charge on specific revenue.

(2) "Public body" means any political or governmental subdivision of the state.

**4-1-101. Budget amendment.** An approved budget amendment is an approval by the budget director of a request submitted through the budget division to:

(1) obtain financing;

(2) transfer excess funds; or

(3) increase the appropriation.

If possible, include all identical language in the section in the lead-in phrase before the colon. Do not repeat it in each subsection.

*Avoid repetitious language, as in (1)(a) through (1)(c) and (2)(a) and (2)(b):*

**17-7-201. Building and construction defined.** In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Building" includes a:

(a) building, facility, or structure constructed or purchased wholly or in part with state money;

(b) building, facility, or structure at a state institution; or

(c) building, facility, or structure owned or to be owned by a state agency, including the department of transportation.

(2) Building does not include a:

(a) building, facility, or structure owned or to be owned by a county, city, town, school district, or special improvement district; or

(b) building, facility, or structure used as a component part of a highway or water conservation project.

(3) "Construction" includes construction, repair, alteration, and equipping and furnishing during construction, repair, or alteration.

*Preferred:*

**17-7-201. Building and construction defined.** In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Building" includes a building, facility, or structure:

(i) constructed or purchased wholly or in part with state money;

(ii) at a state institution; or

(iii) owned or to be owned by a state agency, including the department of transportation.



(b) Building does not include a building, facility, or structure:

(i) owned or to be owned by a county, city, town, school district, or special improvement district; or

(ii) used as a component part of a highway or water conservation project.

(2) "Construction" includes construction, repair, alteration, and equipping and furnishing during construction, repair, or alteration.

Be extremely careful when inserting subsections. Often a meaning can be altered substantially if subsection numbers are carelessly inserted. See the following example. The mathematical computation is entirely different in the two versions.

***Wrong:***

The holder may charge an amount equal to the difference between:

(1) the refund required under 31-1-242; and

(2) the refund required for payment in full as of 1 month prior to the due date times the number of months in which no payment was made.

***Right:***

The holder may charge an amount determined as follows:

(1) Calculate the difference between:

(a) the refund required under 31-1-242; and

(b) the refund required for payment in full as of 1 month prior to the due date.

(2) Multiply the difference by the number of months in which no payment was made.

#### **4-16. Penalty.**

If a violation of an act is to result in a penalty, a separate section is devoted to setting forth the penalty. The wording of this section is patterned after that used in the Montana Criminal Code of 1973.

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Penalty.** A person convicted of violating 1-1-101 shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

The traditional language in the above example provides an exception to the "shall/must" rule stated in section 2-5.

#### **4-17. Repealer.**

It may be necessary to repeal one or more statutes that conflict with a new act. Each statute to be repealed must be identified and listed separately. If an entire chapter or part is to be repealed, list the sections separately but do not include reserved sections. Do not say “chapter 7 is repealed” because this implies that no future law may be codified in chapter 7.

A statement that “all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are repealed” is improper and ineffective.

Whenever a bill repealing a section is drafted, the same bill must amend any other section in the Code containing a reference to the section being repealed. (See the discussion of the online internal reference list in section 1-8.)

**NEW SECTION. Section 9. Repealer.** Sections 1-1-101, 1-1-102, 1-1-103, 1-1-104, and 3-4-102, MCA, are repealed.

#### **4-18. Code Placement & Applicability — Codification Instruction.**

##### **(1) Placement**

The drafter is cautioned not to assign Code section numbers to new material or to renumber existing Code sections because of the possibility of the same number being assigned to more than one section and because logical placement cannot be determined until all the legislation passed during a session is studied as a whole. However, the drafter may propose placement of the law and express this intent by attaching a “Suggested Assignment of Statute Numbers” form (“strawberry sheet”) to the bill draft. (See Appendix Q.)

It may be necessary to express this intent in the bill itself in a section giving instructions to the Code Commissioner to codify the section in a given chapter or part. (See discussion and example below.)

##### **(2) Applicability**

Often it is not enough merely to suggest where a section should be codified. In many instances, it is vital that the drafter express the intent to apply present law to the new law.

For example, let us assume that the drafter is drafting a bill that relates to a chapter of the Code that is arranged as follows:

**CHAPTER 1**  
**HAZARDOUS WASTE AGENCY**  
**Part 1 — General Provisions**

1-1-101. Definitions.

1-1-102. Rulemaking authorized.



1-1-103. Injunction authorized.

1-1-104. Penalties.

## **Part 2 — Certificates and Permits**

1-1-201. Certificate or permit required.

1-1-202. Application.

1-1-203 through 1-1-206 reserved.

1-1-207. Hearings.

1-1-208. Appeals.

The drafter's bill is concerned with findings necessary for issuance of a certificate. After studying chapter 1 carefully, the drafter determines that the one-section bill should be codified as 1-1-203. However, in order to so codify the section, the Code Commissioner may be forced to make additional changes in several sections unless the bill itself shows an intent to incorporate the new law into the present law.

For instance, if in the hypothetical chapter, 1-1-101 (Definitions) or 1-1-104 (Penalties) contains language such as "as used in this chapter, the following definitions apply" or "Violation of this chapter is a misdemeanor", it could be an error to insert new law into the chapter without excepting it from the definition and penalty sections. Therefore, the Code Commissioner would be required to add excepting language. Mere placement would appear to apply the definitions and penalties to the new section when the Legislature had not expressed an intent that they apply.

If the intent is to have the definitions and penalties apply, the drafter must insert a section in the bill to indicate this intent. (See example below.)

### **(3) Codification Instruction**

Present law may by reference be incorporated into a bill by use of a codification instruction. To avoid repeating definitions, rulemaking authority, penalties, other substantive law, etc., and to ensure that an established body of law with its previously construed terms will apply to new law, a codification instruction is essential. However, if a codification instruction indicates the title, chapter, and part in which new law is to be codified but does not state that the provisions of that title, chapter, and part are to apply to the new law, then it is implied that the drafter's intent is that present law not be incorporated into the new law. This type of codification instruction should be avoided.

Whenever a bill contains new sections, either a codification instruction should be included in the draft or a "Suggested Assignment of Statute Numbers" form ("strawberry sheet") should be attached, whichever is appropriate.

### **NEW SECTION. Section 13. Codification instruction.**

[Sections 1 through 5] are intended to be codified as an integral



part of Title 2, chapter 6, part 7, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, part 7, apply to [sections 1 through 5].

A codification instruction may also be used to effect renumbering and reintegrating of Code sections into a different chapter or part of the Code.

**NEW SECTION. Section 13. Codification instruction.**  
Sections 20-25-901 through 20-25-903 are intended to be renumbered and codified as an integral part of Title 19, chapter 4.

#### **4-19. Coordination Instruction.**

Frequently, the Legislature considers two bills that conflict with each other. To determine whether there is an introduced bill that conflicts with a current drafting project, a bill drafter may consult the status report on Code sections affected. The Legislative Services Division also makes available a sections amended list, arranged numerically according to MCA number, of all MCA sections proposed for amendment and the bills amending them. The Code Commissioner's staff typically prepares about 300 composite sections for each edition of the MCA. Multiple amendments to the same section do not usually represent a conflict; however, most conflicts that do occur arise from such multiple amendments. Assuming that other means are not available to resolve such conflicts (e.g., negotiation between the requestor and the sponsor of the other bill), a coordination instruction may be necessary. A typical coordination instruction will void the conflicting provision in the draft bill if the other bill is passed and approved with the troublesome provision intact.

**NEW SECTION. Section 14. Coordination instruction.** If \_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_ [LC 200] is passed and approved and if it includes a section that amends 1-1-101, then [section 1 of this act], amending 1-1-101, is void.

#### **4-20. Saving Clause.**

Because normally it is presumed that changes in the law are in full force from the effective date, new laws often could disrupt transactions already in progress. The saving clause preserves rights and duties that already have matured or proceedings already begun.

**NEW SECTION. Section 15. Saving clause.** [This act] does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date of this act].

If a criminal statute is repealed, unless the act itself contains language to the contrary, section 1-2-205, MCA, applies. It provides that

the repeal of a law creating a crime does not bar prosecution for or punishment of an act already committed in violation of that law.

Another method of preserving rights and duties that have matured is to choose a date upon which the persons coming within the act must comply with its operative provision.

**NEW SECTION. Section 15. Grandfather clause.** A certificate is not required under [section 10] for any facility under construction or in operation on or before December 31, 2001.

#### **4-21. Severability Clause.**

If a statute is found to be unconstitutional or invalid in part, the court must decide if the invalid portion is severable from the valid portion and looks to legislative intent. The Montana Supreme Court has held that inclusion of a severability clause in a bill creates a presumption that the valid portions of a bill would have been enacted without the invalid portions (*Bacus v. Lake County*, 138 M 69, 354 P2d 1056, 1083 (1960), and *Sheehy v. Pub. Employees Retirement Div.*, 262 M 129, 864 P2d 762 (1993)) and thus only the invalid portions are voidable. (See, however, *White v. St.*, 233 M 81, 759 P2d 971 (1988), and Judge Rapkoch's dissent in *Sheehy*. The Montana Supreme Court has also held, in apparent contradiction to Judge Rapkoch's dissent in *Sheehy*, that there is a presumption that the Legislature intended all severable portions of an act to be upheld, regardless of whether an express severability clause appears in the act. *Gullickson v. Mitchell*, 113 M 359, 375, 126 P2d 1106 (1942). Therefore, there is probably no reason to include a severability clause in every bill, but one may be included if the drafter has particularized concerns.) As a rule, severability clauses are not codified but are noted in the Annotations.

**NEW SECTION. Section 16. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

#### **4-22. Nonseverability Clause.**

In the rare instance that the sponsor intends that the entire act should fall if one of the provisions is declared unconstitutional, a nonseverability clause may be added.

**NEW SECTION. Section 16. Nonseverability.** It is the intent of the legislature that each part of [this act] is essentially dependent upon every other part, and if one part is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other parts are invalid.



#### **4-23. Extraordinary Vote Clause.**

Certain types of bills require extraordinary votes for approval. (See section 5-7.)

**NEW SECTION. Section 17. Two-thirds vote required.**  
Because [section 2] limits governmental liability, Article II, section 18, of the Montana constitution requires a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature for passage.

#### **4-24. Applicability Date.**

Do not confuse the applicability date with the effective date. A bill may become effective on passage and approval or on October 1 but apply retroactively or prospectively. To apply retroactively, a law must expressly so state (section 1-2-109, MCA).

**NEW SECTION. Section 18. Retroactive applicability.**  
[Sections 1 through 5 and 7 through 9] apply retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to all occurrences after December 1, 2000.

or

**NEW SECTION. Section 18. Applicability.** [This act] applies to tax years beginning after December 31, 2001.

#### **4-25. Effective Date.**

Section 1-2-201(1), MCA, provides: “(a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c), every statute adopted after January 1, 1981, takes effect on the first day of October following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(b) Every statute providing for appropriation by the legislature for public funds for a public purpose takes effect on the first day of July following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(c) Every statute providing for the taxation of or the imposition of a fee on motor vehicles takes effect on the first day of January following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.”

Passage and approval means the time that a measure either is signed by the Governor or becomes law automatically if not signed within the prescribed time. An effective date should not be included in a bill unless the sponsor wants to delay the effective date, there is an emergency requiring an early effective date, the bill has fiscal impact necessitating a July 1 effective date (see Bills With Fiscal Impact, section 6-1), the bill taxes motor vehicles, or the bill grants rulemaking authority that must



be exercised prior to October 1 (see Bills Granting Rulemaking Authority, section 6-2). An effective date before October 1 may deprive the general public of sufficient notice and deprive administrators of the act of sufficient time to prepare procedures for the new act. (See also section 13-27-105, MCA, for the effective date of an initiative or referendum.)

**NEW SECTION. Section 19. Effective date.** [This act] is effective December 1, 2001. (delayed)

or

**NEW SECTION. Section 19. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval. (immediate)

or

**NEW SECTION. Section 19. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2001. (early)

Occasionally, it is desirable to make only a portion of the act effective before October 1. In such a case, it is essential to make sure that the effective date section is itself made effective on the earlier date. An effective date section that does not itself become effective until October 1 cannot operate until October 1 and therefore cannot make other provisions of the act effective before October 1.

*Wrong/  
Inoperative*

**NEW SECTION. Section 19. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective October 1, 2001.

(2) [Sections 3, 5, and 7] are effective on passage and approval.

*Right/  
Operative*

**NEW SECTION. Section 19. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective October 1, 2001.

(2) [Sections 3, 5, and 7 and this section] are effective on passage and approval.

Whenever there is more than one effective date, the effective date section must specify all effective dates, including October 1, and the title must specify "AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES".

#### **4-26. Termination.**

If substantive law in a bill is to terminate after a certain period of time, termination is accomplished by use of a termination section. The sections of the bill that are to terminate are listed in the termination section. Noncodified sections should not be terminated. A repealer

section may not be terminated, i.e., once Code sections are repealed, they may not be “unrepealed”. (See section 4-2 for a listing of codified and noncodified sections from the bill body.)

**NEW SECTION. Section 20. Termination.** [Sections 1 through 16] terminate July 1, 2004.

If substantive law in a bill is to terminate after some other requirement takes place, termination is accomplished by use of a contingent termination section.

**NEW SECTION. Section 20. Contingent termination.** (1) [Sections 1 through 16] terminate on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund.

# Chapter 5

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## Special Types of Bills

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### **5-1. Validating Bills.**

A validating bill is used to cure any irregularities in actions, proceedings, or transactions carried out under authority of existing law. A bond validating act is passed each session by the Montana Legislature. This type of bill may be used to validate other types of actions (such as approval of plats, distribution of revenue according to a prior census, petitions for creation of districts, etc.) as long as it does not impair the obligation of contracts or disturb a vested right.

In the past, bond validating acts have broken all rules concerning style and language in legislative drafting. It is not necessary to continue to use archaic, flowery language. (See Appendix G for a sample validating act.)

### **5-2. Interstate Compacts.**

An interstate compact is a contract among several states that is enacted into law in each contracting state. A compact must be enacted in substantially the same form in each party state. For example, the drafter may inspect the several interstate compacts adopted by Montana, such as the Interstate Library Compact (section 22-1-601, MCA), Interstate Compact on Juveniles (section 41-6-101, MCA), Interstate Compact on Mental Health (section 53-22-101, MCA), and Driver License Compact (section 61-5-401, MCA).

### **5-3. Uniform or Model Acts.**

(1) Uniform acts are prepared by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and generally are intended to be followed exactly in substance. The purpose of a uniform act is to cover an area of law by a method that will avoid conflicts among the laws of different states. An example is the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, Title 40, chapter 5, part 1, MCA.

(2) Model or “suggested” acts are prepared by the drafting committee of the Council of State Governments and by other persons and organizations and are intended as guides for legislation in which



uniformity is not necessary. A model act is essentially a suggested method for handling a given area of law by providing guidelines within which a state may substitute sections to accommodate local peculiarities. An example is the Montana Business Corporation Act, Title 35, chapter 1, MCA. Copies of the publication *Suggested State Legislation* by the Council of State Governments are available in the Legislative Library.

#### **5-4. Appropriation Bills.**

Article V, section 11(4), of the Montana Constitution requires every appropriation other than general appropriations for the operation of government to be “made by a separate bill, containing but one subject”. (See also discussion of general appropriation bills in section 4-4(3).) The general appropriation bills covering the usual expenses of state government are prepared in accordance with a predetermined format. (See Appendix F for sample format.)

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation.** The following money is appropriated from the general fund to the board of bill drafting to fund publication of the Bill Drafting Manual:

Fiscal year 2002	\$8,720
Fiscal year 2003	9,280

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation.** The following money is appropriated from the account established by 69-1-223 to the office of the consumer counsel:

Fiscal year 2002	\$200,000
Fiscal year 2003	300,000

The Montana Supreme Court has held that an appropriation may be part of a nonappropriation bill without violating the unity of subject rule if the appropriation is incidental to the single subject of the bill (*Hill v. Rae*, 52 M 378, 158 P 826 (1916), and *State ex rel. Veeder v. St. Bd. of Educ.*, 97 M 121, 33 P2d 516 (1934)). For example, if a bill creates a governmental agency or program, a section of the bill appropriating money to fund the program would be proper. However, the most recent (and probably the safest) practice has been to create the new entity and provide for necessary administrative procedures, etc., in one bill and appropriate the necessary money therefor in a separate bill.

Bills statutorily appropriating money by permanent law must conform to the requirements of section 17-7-502, MCA, in order to be effective.

### **5-5. Constitutional Amendments.**

Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution provides for constitutional amendment by legislative referendum. The proposed amendment must receive an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the Legislature before it is referred to the people. Article VI, section 10, provides that bills proposing amendments to the Montana Constitution need not be submitted to the Governor for the Governor's signature. Title 13, chapter 27, MCA, contains the general law relating to procedures to be followed by the Secretary of State and other officials when submitting a constitutional amendment (and other ballot issues) to the electorate. Article XIV, section 8, provides that, unless the amendment provides otherwise, the amendment becomes effective on July 1 following certification of the election returns. (See Appendix H for sample formats.)

### **5-6. Referendums.**

Article III, section 5, of the Montana Constitution provides that the people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the Legislature except an appropriation of money. The Legislature may order a proposed law to be voted upon by the people, or the people may petition to so vote. An "act" does not include a joint resolution ratifying an amendment to the United States Constitution (*State ex rel. Hatch v. Murray*, 165 M 90, 526 P2d 1369 (1974)).

Section 13-27-313, MCA, provides that the Attorney General must approve the form of the referendum ballot. When the Legislature orders an act to be referred to the people, the Secretary of State sends a copy of the proposed law to the Attorney General (section 13-27-310, MCA) so that the Attorney General may write an explanatory statement of the measure (section 13-27-312, MCA). At the same time, the Secretary of State asks the Attorney General to approve the ballot form, which is usually prescribed in the act ordering the referendum. The drafter should become acquainted with Title 13, chapter 27, MCA, Ballot Issues.

Usually, the last section of a bill for a referendum is the section ordering a vote of the people. (See Appendix I for sample format.)

### **5-7. Bills Requiring Extraordinary Votes.**

Certain types of bills require extraordinary votes in order to become effective. Examples of bills requiring extraordinary votes are:

- (1) a bill to grant to a public entity immunity from suit — two-thirds of each house, Art. II, sec. 18;
- (2) a vetoed bill — two-thirds of each house to override, Art. VI, sec. 10;

(3) a bill to appropriate highway revenue for nonhighway purposes — three-fifths of each house, Art. VIII, sec. 6;

(4) a bill creating state debt — two-thirds of each house, Art. VIII, sec. 8;

(5) a bill to appropriate severance tax trust fund principal — three-fourths of each house, Art. IX, sec. 5;

(6) a bill to propose calling constitutional convention — two-thirds of all members, Art. XIV, sec. 1; and

(7) a bill to propose amendment to Montana Constitution — two-thirds of all members, Art. XIV, sec. 8.

A section of a bill giving notice that it requires an extraordinary vote normally comes before the effective date section if one is included. (See Appendix P.)



## Chapter 6

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# Bills With Special Provisions

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### **6-1. Bills With Fiscal Impact.**

Section 5-4-201, MCA, provides that a bill having an effect on revenue, expenditures, or the fiscal liability of the state or a local government may not be reported out of committee without an attached fiscal note estimating the dollar amount of the fiscal impact. The fiscal note requirement does not apply to an appropriation bill carrying a specific dollar amount.

When a bill is reviewed by the Legislative Services Division staff prior to introduction, its possible fiscal impact is considered. If a fiscal note appears to be needed, a stamp so indicating is affixed to the bill by the staff. At the time a bill is introduced, the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House must determine whether the bill needs a fiscal note. The stamp helps save the presiding officer time in determining whether a fiscal note should be ordered. Upon determination of the need for a fiscal note, the presiding officer requests it from the Budget Director, who is required by law to return the note within 6 days.

The drafter can simplify the process of judging fiscal impact by keeping the fiscal note requirement in mind when drafting bills and indicating on the bill draft that a fiscal note may be required. (See Bill Drafter Checklist, Appendix R.)

The fiscal note is attached to the bill, and the committee considers it with the bill. If a bill is introduced without a request for a fiscal note, the sponsor, the committee considering the bill, or the majority of the house considering the bill on second reading may request the presiding officer to request a fiscal note.

If a sponsor disagrees with a fiscal note, the sponsor may request a sponsor's fiscal note under section 5-4-204, MCA.

A bill's fiscal impact may also necessitate the inclusion of a special effective date. Under section 1-2-201, MCA, unless a different time is prescribed, all bills except appropriation bills and those portions of bills containing statutes providing for taxation or the imposition of a fee on motor vehicles are effective on October 1 following passage and

approval. Appropriation bills become effective on July 1, and statutes providing for taxation or the imposition of a fee on motor vehicles become effective on January 1 following passage and approval. (See Effective Date, section 4-25.) Frequently, a nonappropriation bill will have such an impact on local or state finances as to make it highly desirable to provide an effective date that coincides with the beginning of the fiscal year (usually July 1). See 39 A.G. Op. 29, discussing the problems associated with a bill increasing the county road tax levy without providing a July 1 effective date.

Sections 1-2-112 through 1-2-114, MCA, are also concerned with fiscal impact. These statutes require that any law directing a local government unit or school district to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that will require additional funds contain a specific means of financing the activity or service. Therefore, a drafter must be careful, when drafting bills concerning additional local government or school district activities or services, to include provision for an additional mill levy or remittance of state funds sufficient to fund the new activity. These statutes provide that a bill may not be introduced until a specific means of financing is provided.

## **6-2. Bills Granting Rulemaking Authority.**

(1) In highly complex, technical fields in which the degree of specificity required is not considered appropriate for comprehensive statutory treatment or when interim authority is necessary to provide for continuing compliance with ever-changing federal law and regulations, the requestor may wish to delegate rulemaking authority to an Executive Branch agency. Rules have the force of law (i.e., an enforceable prohibition or mandate of behavior or activity) only if:

- (a) adopted under an express grant of legislative authority;
- (b) adopted under statutory guidelines sufficiently specific to satisfy the constitutional separation of powers requirement for a delegation of rulemaking authority;
- (c) adopted in compliance with the procedures outlined in Title 2, chapter 4, part 3, MCA; and
- (d) consistent with and reasonably necessary to effectuate the purpose of the implemented statutes (section 2-4-305(6), MCA).

(2) Items (a) and (b) above are most significant from the bill drafting standpoint. An express grant of rulemaking authority is created for a new body of law by stating substantially that "The department shall [may] adopt rules to implement [sections 1 through 12]." Section 5-4-103, MCA, enacted by the 1997 Legislature, provides that a statute delegating rulemaking authority to an agency must contain specific guidelines describing for the agency and the public what the rules may and may not contain.



A statement that something must be in accordance with rules adopted by the department, that a person or entity is required to follow rules to be adopted by the department, or similar language is not a grant of rulemaking authority—it is merely a mandate that department rules on the subject be followed.

An existing program that already includes an express grant of rulemaking authority may be modified or expanded by amendment of MCA sections to which the existing express grant of authority applies or by enactment of a new bill section along with a codification instruction making the existing authority apply to the new bill section. (See Code Placement & Applicability — Codification Instruction, section 4-18.)

(3) A mere implication of power to adopt rules gleaned from implemented statutes because of a perceived necessity for rules is not a sufficient reason to adopt legislative rules, i.e., rules having the force of law (section 2-4-102(13)(a), MCA). Moreover, even a clearly expressed grant of rulemaking authority will be ineffective if it is so broad and unrestricted as to constitute an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority. (See *In re Gate City S&L Ass'n*, 182 M 361, 597 P2d 84 (1979).)

(4) Basic policy and guidelines must be determined by the Legislature as set forth in statutory restrictions, standards, and criteria to be followed by the agency in adopting rules. For further discussion of constitutional problems related to delegation of authority and separation of powers generally, see Chapter 1.

(5) In an area in which the agency does not have existing rulemaking authority, if it is necessary to initiate rulemaking proceedings before the normal October 1 effective date (see discussion of effective dates in section 4-25), the express rulemaking authority section and all sections of the bill to be implemented through such authority should be made effective before the time when initiation of rulemaking proceedings is contemplated.

(6) A bill may also specifically repeal or direct amendment or adoption of an administrative rule. (See section 2-4-412, MCA; Appendix K.)

### **6-3. Bills Creating a New Agency.**

Title 2, chapter 15, MCA, contains a reference to each agency in the Executive Branch created by statute. In the MCA, the creation of an agency is separated from the functions of that agency.

Whenever an Executive Branch agency is created by bill, one or more sections should deal with its creation and internal organization. These sections will be codified in Title 2.

In addition, the bill must contain a definition section that includes a definition of the new agency.



**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Definitions.** In [sections 2 through 12], the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of dogcatchers provided for in [section 1].

(2) "Dogcatcher" means . . . .

In this example, "[sections 2 through 12]" will be changed to "this chapter", "this part", or sections "\_\_\_ through \_\_\_" (MCA), as appropriate, and "[section 1]", which creates the board, will become a Code section number in Title 2, chapter 15, MCA. The definition section will be codified with the part of the bill dealing with the functions, powers, and duties of the new agency.

The same rule applies to the creation of any new Legislative or Judicial Branch agency. For example, the composition, terms, and officers of the Environmental Quality Council are provided for in Title 5, MCA, Legislative Branch, because the Council is a legislative agency. However, the functions of the Council are codified in Title 75, MCA, Environmental Protection. (See sections 5-16-101 through 5-16-105, MCA, and Title 75, chapter 1, part 3, MCA.)

Whenever a drafter is dealing with a change of an agency's functions or duties, the statutes relating to the creation and composition of the agency must be checked as well as the substantive area of the law.

# Chapter 7

## Resolutions

The only type of instrument other than a bill that may be introduced in either house of the Legislature is a resolution.

### 7-1. Simple Resolution.

A simple resolution may be used to amend the rules of or to provide for the internal affairs of the house adopting it. A simple resolution does not require three readings or a roll call vote as does a bill or joint resolution.

### 7-2. Joint Resolution.

A joint resolution is effective upon passage by both houses and need not be submitted to the Governor for the Governor's signature (Article VI, section 10, Montana Constitution). Some common uses of joint resolutions are to:

- (1) send a request to a state agency, Congress, or the President;
- (2) express sympathy to relatives of a deceased legislator;
- (3) amend or adopt Joint Rules;
- (4) ratify or propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution;
- (5) request repeal, amendment, or adoption of Executive Branch administrative rules (section 2-4-412, MCA);
- (6) express support for or disapproval of federal legislation;
- (7) prescribe duties, compensation, etc., of legislative employees;
- (8) request an interim study; or
- (9) approve construction of a state building (sections 18-2-102 and 20-25-302, MCA).

The law provides that disasters and emergencies be dealt with by the Legislature by joint resolution (sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3) and (4), 10-3-505(5), and 90-4-310, MCA). A negotiated labor settlement may also be submitted by joint resolution (section 39-31-305(3), MCA).

Resolutions do not have the force of law. In *Gildroy v. Anderson*, 162 M 26, 507 P2d 1069 (1973), the Supreme Court said, "The effect and validity of a joint legislative resolution must be decided upon a consideration of the purpose intended to be accomplished and in light of the applicable provisions of the Montana Constitution." The court went on to say, "A joint resolution is not a general law and cannot be used to control the discretion of the governor."

The format of resolutions has been prescribed by custom. In resolutions, it would seem that even the unity of subject rule need not be followed because the resolution does not have the binding effect of a law. Customary formats are presented in the Appendix and must be followed by the drafter.

The preamble of a resolution is identical to the preamble of a bill. It usually begins with "WHEREAS" and states the purpose of or reason for the resolution.

In a resolution, a resolving clause takes the place of the enacting clause of a bill. In the past, the body of a resolution has consisted of one or more paragraphs, each beginning with the statement "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED". The drafter may wish to number the paragraphs, as shown in the second example in Appendix N, as an alternative, rather than continue to repeat the rather flowery, archaic language.

Standard capitalization rules are followed when drafting a resolution.



## Chapter 8

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# Bill Amendments

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### **8-1. Introduction.**

Bill amendments are prepared by the Legislative Services Division staff, committee staffs, amendments coordinators, lobbyists, or legislators themselves. If the amendment is made by a committee, it is presented in a Standing Committee Report, as shown in section 8-5.

The amendment must identify the specific copy of the bill to be amended, i.e., introduced (white); second reading (yellow); third reading (blue); second house, second reading (tan); or reference bill (salmon). Only the most recent copy of the bill may be amended!

### **8-2. Reminders When Amending Bills.**

(1) (a) Check that changes made by amendment are reflected in the title, if necessary. These changes include the insertion or removal of all amended or repealed MCA section numbers (listed in numerical order) and related descriptive language.

(b) Remember that appropriation, effective date, applicability, and termination provisions must be reflected in the title.

(2) Amend the catchline, if necessary.

(3) Amend entire words, not portions of words (e.g., to change spelling or capitalization).

(4) Check amendment language for clarity, spelling, punctuation, outlining, style, and consistency with the rest of the bill.

(5) Make sure that new internal references in the amendment are accurate.

(6) Check the entire bill for any references to terms, figures, or dates that are being changed or provisions that are being deleted, i.e., the amendment appears in all appropriate places.

(7) (a) If “department”, “board”, etc., are used in new language, check that the terms are defined for the title, chapter, or part.

(b) Check that new definitions are in alphabetical order and that they are used and used consistently.

(c) If a defined term is added, deleted, or changed, check that language in the bill works with the term as amended. (If a defined term is deleted by amendment, there should be no reference to that term in the title, chapter, or part to which the definition had applied.) (See Appendix S for tips on searching.)

(8) If a program or concept is amended out, such as a tax credit for the elderly or a task force, make sure that reference to it is taken out everywhere in the bill.

(9) If bill section numbers are changed, check the entire bill for internal references to those sections. Especially watch “housekeeping” (noncodified) sections.

(10) If an amendment causes reoutlining:

(a) check that section’s outline and recheck subsection references in that section;

(b) search the entire bill for internal references to the former subsection numbers of the reoutlined section; and

(c) check the online internal reference list unless the provision being amended is a new section. (See section 1-8.)

(11) (a) If additional sections are being repealed, be sure to check that both the title and repealer section reflect the amendment and check the online internal reference list and amend any sections affected.

(b) Make sure that an MCA section is not being both amended and repealed in the bill (unless a delayed effective date for the repealer allows both).

(c) If an amendment removes the repeal of a section, address any stricken references to the repealed section and any sections in the bill included only because of references to the repealed section.

(12) If an amendment removes the repeal of a section, check to see if any section is in the bill because it contained a concept relating to the repealed section. For example, if a repealed section providing for an account is unrepealed, then any section containing language that was stricken regarding the account needs to be amended to insert the stricken language. (Check that the section is still substantively amended.)

(13) (a) Note that if there is more than one effective date in the bill, amendments may not include references to “[the effective date of this act]”; use “[the effective date of this section]”.

(b) To avoid listing references to many sections in the bill, use the following language in an effective date section (this applies to an original bill draft as well):



“(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Sections 3, 7, and 52] are effective January 1, 2002.”

(14) Check that a termination provision does not terminate a repealer section. A repealer section may not be terminated.

(15) If an amendment is adding a coordination instruction, check the bill referenced in the amendment and make sure that the coordination provisions work.

(16) Remember that Article V, section 11, of the Montana Constitution states that a bill may not be altered or amended on its passage through the Legislature so as to change its original purpose. This particularly applies to substitute bills. If the amendment would entirely change the original direction of the bill or enter a new subject area not covered by the original bill, a constitutional problem is likely.

(17) If an amendment removes the only substantive amendment from an MCA section, amend the entire section out of the bill because it no longer relates to the stated purpose of the bill. When a section is removed from a bill for this reason, the title and any affected internal references must also be amended.

### **8-3. Substitute Bill.**

If the proposed amendment is very extensive, it may be easier to rewrite the entire bill. This is called a substitute bill. The Joint Rules provide that if the amendment is relevant to the title and subject matter of the original bill and is so extensive that a standard amendment would be long and difficult to comprehend, the bill may be amended by striking all of the bill following the enacting clause and substituting an entirely new bill. (See section 8-4(14) and Appendix O.)

### **8-4. Amendment Language Samples.**

#### **(1) Amend title**

1. Title, lines 5 through 7.

Following: “A PERSON” on line 5

Strike: remainder of lines 5 through 7 in their entirety

Insert: “WHO HAS SERVED A SENTENCE”

#### **(2) Insert material only**

1. Page 1, line 23.

Following: “statement”

Insert: “in simple language”

#### **(3) Insert material following stricken material**

1. Page 1, line 7.

Strike: “four percent of the payment due”

Insert: “4%”



2. Page 2, line 10.

Following: "42%"

Insert: "12%"

3. Page 4, line 5.

Strike: "The" through "act."

Insert: "The department shall enforce the provisions of this section."

***Note: It can help readability to strike an entire sentence and insert a whole new sentence rather than insert many "choppy" amendments into a sentence.***

#### **(4) Insert material and renumber**

1. Page 4.

Following: line 1

Insert: "**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Restrictions on bargaining.** Nothing in this chapter requires or allows a board of trustees of a school district to bargain collectively upon any matter other than matters specified in 39-31-305."

Renumber: subsequent sections

2. Page 5.

Following: line 3

Insert: "**Section 4.** Section 53-6-205, MCA, is amended to read:

"**53-6-205. Departmental reports to legislature.** The department shall achieve full implementation of the program, as set forth in this chapter and related sections, no later than January April 1, 2002."

**NEW SECTION. Section 5. Reports — filing.** The reports submitted pursuant to 53-6-605 must be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

**NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction.**

[Section 5] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 6, part 6, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, part 6, apply to [section 5]."

Renumber: subsequent sections

#### **(5) Strike and insert columnar figures in appropriation bills**

1. Page 12, line 20.

Strike: "45,000" "47,000"

Insert: "44,954" "46,955"

#### **(6) Strike material only**

1. Page 1, line 22.

Strike: "by"

(if there is only one "by" on line 22)

2. Page 4, line 23.

Following: "public,"

Strike: "the"

(if there is more than one "the" on the line; if not, use form 1 above)

3. Page 5, line 16.

Strike: "doctor, engineer, lawyer, ACCOUNTANT,"

(show material to be stricken exactly as it appears in the bill)

4. Page 3, lines 4 and 5.

Strike: "poultry" on line 4 through "livestock" on line 5

#### **(7) Strike certain lines in their entirety**

1. Page 1, line 21 through page 2, line 1.

Following: "vagrancy." on line 21

Strike: remainder of line 21 through page 2, line 1 in their entirety

#### **(8) Strike a section, subsection, or long passage in its entirety**

1. Page 1, line 11 through page 3, line 6.

Strike: section 3 in its entirety

Renumber: subsequent sections

2. Page 2, line 24 through page 3, line 15.

Strike: subsection (e) in its entirety

Renumber: subsequent subsections

3. Page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 5.

Following: "act" on line 21

Strike: remainder of line 21 through "day" on page 5, line 5

#### **(9) Strike and renumber subsequent sections or subsections**

1. Page 2, lines 1 and 2.

Strike: section 10 in its entirety

Renumber: subsequent sections

2. Page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 2.

Strike: subsections (a) and (b) in their entirety

Renumber: subsequent subsections

When an amendment results in one level of outlining being changed, use the following form:

3. Page 4, line 15.

Strike: "(1)"

Insert: "(a)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

When an amendment results in several levels of outlining being changed, use the following form:

4. Page 5, lines 1 through 3.

Strike: "(1)" on line 1

Insert: "(a)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

Page 5, line 2.

Strike: "(a)"

Insert: "(i)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

Page 5, line 3.

Strike: "(i)"

Insert: "(A)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

***If a section or subsection is renumbered by amendment, check the entire bill to see if internal references are affected and need to be amended.***

#### **(10) Strike and replace a section or subsection**

1. Page 12, lines 5 through 21.

Strike: section 13 in its entirety

Insert: "**Section 13.** Section 1-1-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"1-1-101. Definition of law.** "Law" is . . . ."

2. Page 14, lines 7 through 21.

Strike: subsection (c) in its entirety

Insert: "(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor."

***If a section or subsection is renumbered by amendment, check the entire bill to see if internal references are affected and need to be amended.***

#### **(11) More than one amendment on the same line**

1. Page 12, line 23.

Following: "registrant"

Insert: "or licensee"

Following: "proper"

Strike: "inspection"

#### **(12) Same amendment in many places in large bill**

1. Page 2, line 13.

Page 3, lines 4 and 21.

Page 6, lines 1, 4, and 12.

...

...

Page 134, lines 2, 15, 18, 22, and 25.

Strike: "July"

Insert: "August"

(Because this format is cumbersome for the engrossing staff, it should be used sparingly and only for extremely extensive amendments.)



**(13) Correct punctuation**

1. Page 18, line 10.  
Following: "desires"  
Strike: "."  
Insert: ".,"

**(14) Amend a bill as a substitute bill; strike all of the bill after the enacting clause**

1. Title, lines 5 through 15.  
Following: "AN ACT"  
Strike: lines 5 through 15 in their entirety  
Insert: "PROVIDING THAT A PERSON CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENSE WHO HAS SERVED A SENTENCE AND IS NO LONGER UNDER STATE SUPERVISION MAY BE GRANTED THE PRIVILEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE; AND DEFINING LICENSURE AS A PRIVILEGE."
2. Page 1, line 23 through page 52, line 6.  
Strike: everything after the enacting clause  
Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 1. Purpose. It is the public policy of the legislature of the state of Montana to . . . .

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Licensure defined as privilege. Licensure is a privilege to be granted or revoked as a police power of the state . . . .

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Restoration of rights to felons. Laws for the punishment of crime must be founded on the principles of prevention and reformation . . . .

NEW SECTION. Section 4. . . ."

**8-5. Standing Committee Report.**

**(Examples)**

SENATE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.

Ms. President

We, your Committee on Highways and Transportation, having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 123, respectfully report as follows: That Senate Bill No. 123, introduced bill, be amended as follows:

or

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.

Ms. Speaker

We, your Committee on Transportation, having had under consideration House Bill No. 123, respectfully report as follows:  
That House Bill No. 123, introduced bill, be amended as follows:

**8-6. Conference Committee Report.**

If the Senate and House cannot agree on an amendment (or series of amendments), either house may request a Conference Committee. The format of a Conference Committee Report is determined by the Rules Committee.

**Example 1. Amending the bill**

March 18, 2001

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1

## ON HOUSE BILL NO. 11

MR. (MS.) PRESIDENT AND MR. (MS.) SPEAKER:

We, your Joint Conference Committee on House Bill No. 11, met March 18, 2001, and considered:

1. Senate Committee on Judiciary amendments to the third reading copy, dated March 5, 2001; and
2. Senate Committee of the Whole amendments to the second house, second reading copy, dated March 9, 2001.

- (1) We recommend that House Bill No. 11, reference copy, be amended as indicated in the INSTRUCTIONS.

(If it is a Free Conference Committee Report, the committee may recommend further amendment of the bill.)

- (2) We recommend that the Conference Committee Report to House Bill No. 11 be adopted.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Title, line 20.  
Strike: "85-1-607,"
2. Page 5, lines 4 through 17.  
Strike: section 6 in its entirety  
Renumber: subsequent sections

3. Page 6, line 1.  
Following: "dogs,"  
Insert: "cats,"

4. Page 7, line 12.  
Following: "cows,"  
Strike: "horses,"

## Example 2. Accepting previous amendments

(form used when no amendments are recommended)

We, your Joint Conference Committee on House Bill No. 45,  
met March 12, 2001, and considered:

1. Senate Committee on Judiciary amendments to the third reading copy, dated March 5, 2001.

We recommend that the amendments considered above be accepted  
by the House (chamber whose rejection led to the conference).

FOR THE HOUSE:

FOR THE SENATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Presiding Officer's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Presiding Officer's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)



Page 2 of 2  
Following page  
Insert here

Page 1 of 1  
Following page  
Insert here

Section 2. Description of project and objectives  
The project is to be completed within a period of 12 months. The objectives of the project are to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data on the use of the system. The project will be completed in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a system for the collection of data. The second phase will be to develop a system for the analysis of data. The third phase will be to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data.

Section 3. Description of the system  
The system is to be developed in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a system for the collection of data. The second phase will be to develop a system for the analysis of data. The third phase will be to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data.

Section 4. Description of the results  
The results of the project will be a system for the collection and analysis of data. The system will be developed in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a system for the collection of data. The second phase will be to develop a system for the analysis of data. The third phase will be to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data.

Section 5. Description of the conclusions  
The conclusions of the project are that the system for the collection and analysis of data is feasible. The system will be developed in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a system for the collection of data. The second phase will be to develop a system for the analysis of data. The third phase will be to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data.

Section 6. Description of the recommendations  
The recommendations of the project are that the system for the collection and analysis of data is feasible. The system will be developed in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a system for the collection of data. The second phase will be to develop a system for the analysis of data. The third phase will be to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data.

Section 7. Description of the references  
The references of the project are that the system for the collection and analysis of data is feasible. The system will be developed in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a system for the collection of data. The second phase will be to develop a system for the analysis of data. The third phase will be to develop a system for the collection and analysis of data.

## Chapter 9

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# Selected Provisions Relating to Bill Drafting

---

The following is a list of constitutional, statutory, and Joint Rule provisions of which a bill drafter should be especially knowledgeable.

### **9-1. Montana Constitution.**

#### Article II. Declaration of Rights

Section 4. Equal protection

Section 5. Freedom of religion

Section 7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press

Section 18. State subject to suit

Section 31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges

#### Article III. General Government

Section 1. Separation of powers

Section 5. Referendum

#### Article V. The Legislature

Section 11. Bills

Section 12. Local and special legislation

#### Article VI. The Executive

Section 10. Veto power

#### Article VIII. Revenue and Finance

Section 1. Tax purposes

Section 2. Tax power inalienable

Section 6. Highway revenue nondiversion

#### Section 8. State debt

Section 9. Balanced budget

#### Article XIII. General Provisions

Section 1(3). No retrospective law

#### Article XIV. Constitutional Revision

Section 8. Amendment by legislative referendum

## **9-2. Montana Code Annotated.**

- Title 1 — General Laws and Definitions, especially:
  - Chapter 1, part 2 — General Definitions of Terms Used in Code
  - Chapter 2 — Statutory Construction
  - Chapter 11 — Publication and Updating of Code — Code Commissioner
- Title 2, chapter 4, part 4 — Legislative Review of Administrative Rules
- Title 5, chapter 4 — Legislative Branch — Bills
- Title 13, chapter 27 — Ballot Issues

## **9-3. Rules of the Montana Legislature.**

### **Joint Rules**

#### **Chapter 40. Legislation**



## Chapter 10

---

# Computerized Bill Drafting and Processing

---

### 10-1. Introduction.

The Legislative Services Division uses an integrated computerized system that combines microcomputer and mainframe computer word processing software to perform certain tasks, such as bill drafting, bill processing, Code updating, and searching. Individual drafters may use the search capability of the MCA on CD-ROM.

### 10-2. Framing a Search. (See Appendix S for tips on searching.)

Because the computer cannot think for itself, it is important when considering whether or not to request a search that the searcher have a good idea of the words or phrases that the legislative drafter might have used to express the concept being searched. For example, if the search is for all sections of the Code providing statutes of limitations, that phrase actually may never have been used. Instead, the drafter might have said, "suit must be brought within 6 years", "if the action is not brought within 6 years, it is barred", or even "the period of limitations is 6 years". Similarly, a search for sections that define criminal conduct might include the following: "felony", "misdemeanor", "fine", "may be fined", "may be imprisoned", "punishable by", "it is unlawful to . . .", "guilty", "upon conviction of . . .", and possibly "crime", "criminal", or "offense".

Words may be used in senses other than the one to be searched. For example, a drafter might wish to search for material relating to arrest or search warrants. A search of the word "warrant" alone would include not only search and arrest warrants but warrants issued by the State Auditor, warrants of resurvey, stock warrants, and the verb form "if conditions warrant".

Some concepts are nearly impossible to search for, such as "conflict of interest". One can imagine how many ways a drafter might phrase provisions in this area.

Other concepts are so narrow in scope that all or most references are likely to appear in one title. A search may be made of only certain designated portions of the Code.

The Legislative Services Division staff will frame a search for other state agencies and the public. Persons having access to the "LEXIS" or WESTLAW legal research system may conduct their own searches of the Code using that system, or a search may be done on the CD-ROM or Internet version of the Code.

### **10-3. Drafting System.**

The Legislative Services Division staff drafts bills on microcomputers, using WordPerfect software. To enhance the bill drafting process, drafters can retrieve existing Code sections from the Code database directly into their bill draft documents.

By means of special format control codes, selected text can be automatically overstricken or underscored. Standard material in a bill, such as bill identification, the enacting clause, and each introductory amending clause, is automatically inserted into the bill draft document.

Software provides page numbering, sequential numbering of sections, and publishing control code features used in preparing camera-ready copy for publishing.

Following the legislative session, successful bills are processed and merged into the existing Code database to create the updated text of the Montana Code Annotated.

In addition, text from the WordPerfect directory and the Code database is processed to prepare camera-ready copy used to publish the Session Laws and the Montana Code Annotated.

57th Legislature

LC 0001.01

\_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE AND THE JUDGE'S LAW PARTNERS TO PRACTICE LAW BEFORE ANY COURT OF THIS STATE EXCEPT THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THAT JUDGE; AMENDING SECTIONS 3-1-601, 3-1-603, AND 3-1-604, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 3-1-601, MCA, is amended to read:

**"3-1-601. Certain officers not to practice law or administer estates. (1)**

A Except as provided in 3-1-604, a justice or judge of a court of record or clerk of any court may not practice law in any court in this state or act as attorney, agent, or solicitor in the prosecution of a claim or application for lands, pensions, or patent rights or other proceedings before a department of the state or general government or a court of the United States during his the justice's or judge's continuance in office.

(2) Neither the court administrator nor an assistant may practice law in any of the courts of this state while holding his the position of court administrator or assistant.

(3) A justice or judge of a court of record may not act as administrator or executor of any estate for compensation."

**Section 2.** Section 3-1-603, MCA, is amended to read:

**"3-1-603. No judicial officer of court of record to have partner practicing law. (1)** A Except as provided in subsection (2), a judicial officer of a court of record may not have a partner acting as attorney or counsel in any court of this state.

(2) A partner of a municipal court judge may act as attorney or counsel in any court of this state except the municipal court of the attorney's partner."



**Section 3.** Section 3-1-604, MCA, is amended to read:

2       **"3-1-604. Restrictions on municipal court judges.** A municipal court  
3 judge may not practice law before the judge's own municipal court or hold office  
4 in a political party during the judge's term of office."

5 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in  
6 subsection (2), [this act] is effective October 1, 2001.

7 (2) [Section 1 and this section] are effective on passage and approval.

8 -End-

APPENDIX A  
SAMPLE — BILL WITH AMENDATORY MATERIAL  
TRANSFERRING FUNDS

89

57th Legislature

LC 0002.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3 BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT  
6 OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO TRANSFER TO THE GENERAL FUND  
7 FROM THE HAZARDOUS WASTE/CERCLA ACCOUNT A TOTAL NOT TO  
8 EXCEED \$1 MILLION; AMENDING SECTION 75-10-621, MCA; AND  
9 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION  
10 DATE."

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 **Section 1.** Section 75-10-621, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"75-10-621. Hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account. (1)**

15 There is a hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account within the state  
16 special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

17 (2) There must be paid into the hazardous waste/CERCLA account:

18 (a) revenue obtained from the interest income of the resource indemnity  
19 trust fund under the provisions of 15-38-202, together with interest accruing on  
20 that revenue;

21 (b) all proceeds of bonds or notes issued under 75-10-623 and all interest  
22 earned on proceeds of the bonds or notes; and

23 (c) revenue from penalties or damages collected under the federal  
24 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of  
25 1980, as amended in 1986 (CERCLA).

26 (3) ~~Appropriations~~ Except as provided in subsection (6), appropriations may  
27 be made from the hazardous waste/CERCLA account only for the following  
28 purposes and subject to the following conditions:

29 (a) funds are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502(4), to the  
30 CERCLA match debt service account necessary to make principal, interest,

APPENDIX A  
SAMPLE — BILL WITH AMENDATORY MATERIAL  
TRANSFERRING FUNDS

1 and premium payments due on CERCLA bonds;

2 (b) not more than one-half of the interest income received for any biennium  
3 from the resource indemnity trust fund may be appropriated on a biennial basis  
4 for:

5 (i) implementation of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act, including  
6 regulation of underground storage tanks and the state share to obtain matching  
7 federal funds;

8 (ii) implementation of Title 75, chapter 10, part 6, pertaining to state  
9 assistance to and cooperation with the federal government for remedial action  
10 under CERCLA;

11 (iii) expenses of the department in administering and overseeing the  
12 implementation of Title 75, chapter 10, parts 4 and 6; and

13 (iv) state expenses relating to investigation and remedial action for any  
14 hazardous substance defined in 75-10-602; and

15 (c) to the extent funds are available after the appropriations in subsections  
16 (3)(a) and (3)(b), the department may, as appropriate, seek authorization from  
17 the legislature or, when the legislature is not in session, through the budget  
18 amendment process provided for in Title 17, chapter 7, part 4, to spend funds  
19 for:

20 (i) state participation in remedial action under section 104 of CERCLA;

21 (ii) state costs for maintenance of sites at which remedial action under  
22 CERCLA has been completed; and

23 (iii) the state share to obtain matching federal funds for underground storage  
24 tank corrective action.

25 (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(c), the legislature finds that a need for  
26 state special revenue to obtain matching federal funds for underground storage  
27 tank corrective action or for remedial action under section 104 of CERCLA  
28 constitutes a serious unforeseen and unanticipated circumstance for the  
29 purpose of meeting the definition of "emergency" in 17-7-102. The legislature  
30 further finds that the inability of the department to match the federal funds as the



APPENDIX A  
SAMPLE — BILL WITH AMENDATORY MATERIAL  
TRANSFERRING FUNDS

91

1 funds become available would seriously impair the functions of the department  
2 in carrying out its responsibilities under Title 75, chapter 10, parts 4 and 6.

3 (5) There is no dollar limit to the hazardous waste/CERCLA account.  
4 Unused Except as provided in subsection (6), unused balances remain in the  
5 account until appropriated by the legislature for the purposes specified in this  
6 section.

7 (6) On or before June 30, 2001, the department shall transfer from the  
8 hazardous waste/CERCLA account to the general fund an amount not to  
9 exceed \$1 million."

10 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on  
11 passage and approval.

12 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Termination. [This act] terminates July 1,  
13 2001.

14 -End-



57th Legislature

LC 0003.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3 BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REPEALING SECTIONS  
6 37-61-304, 37-61-305, AND 37-61-306, MCA, WHICH ESTABLISH  
7 PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINING ATTORNEYS THAT ARE  
8 INCONSISTENT WITH ORDERS AND RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT;  
9 AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

10

11 WHEREAS, the Montana Supreme Court has original and exclusive  
12 jurisdiction to discipline persons admitted to practice law in Montana pursuant  
13 to Article VII, section 2(3), of the Montana Constitution and Title 37, chapter 61,  
14 MCA, and its inherent jurisdiction; and

15 WHEREAS, the Montana Supreme Court, by its orders governing the  
16 disciplining of persons admitted to practice law in Montana, established a  
17 Commission on Practice to receive and investigate complaints of misconduct  
18 by lawyers in Montana; and

19 WHEREAS, the Montana Supreme Court, by its orders governing the  
20 disciplining of persons admitted to practice law in Montana, also established  
21 grievance committees in each judicial district to assist the Commission on  
22 Practice in its investigation and processing of complaints of misconduct by  
23 attorneys in Montana; and

24 WHEREAS, sections 37-61-304 through 37-61-306, MCA, also address  
25 procedures for investigating and processing complaints of misconduct by  
26 attorneys in Montana; and

27 WHEREAS, the procedures set forth in sections 37-61-304 through  
28 37-61-306, MCA, are inconsistent with the procedures established by the  
29 Montana Supreme Court in its orders.

30 THEREFORE, the Legislature of the State of Montana finds that it is



APPENDIX B  
SAMPLE — BILL WITH PREAMBLE

1 appropriate to repeal these inconsistent sections.

2

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

4 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Repealer.** Sections 37-61-304, 37-61-305,  
5 and 37-61-306, MCA, are repealed.

6 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on  
7 passage and approval.

8 -End-

57th Legislature

LC 0004.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ENCOURAGING A SCHOOL  
5 DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A FIREARMS SAFETY  
6 EDUCATION COURSE; AND AUTHORIZING A DISTRICT TO USE A  
7 COURSE DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND  
8 PARKS, A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR A FIREARMS  
9 ASSOCIATION."

10  
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Firearms safety education.** The trustees of a  
13 district are encouraged to establish and maintain a firearms safety education  
14 course. The trustees may adopt a course of instruction developed by the  
15 department of fish, wildlife, and parks, a law enforcement agency, or a firearms  
16 association as its firearms safety education course. Instructors from the  
17 department of fish, wildlife, and parks, a law enforcement agency, or a firearms  
18 association or a person recognized by the trustees as having expertise in  
19 firearms safety education may be used to provide the instruction.

20 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is  
21 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 1, and the  
22 provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 1, apply to [section 1].

23 -End-

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57th Legislature

LC 0005.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3 BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND  
4 TRANSPORTATION

5  
6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EMPOWERING THE  
7 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES AND TO  
8 SELECT ROADS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION;  
9 AMENDING SECTION 60-2-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE  
10 EFFECTIVE DATE."

11  
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 1. Setting priorities and selecting projects.**

14 The commission shall establish priorities and select and designate segments  
15 for construction and reconstruction on federal-aid interstate and federal-aid  
16 primary and state highway systems. The commission shall use information  
17 gathered or discovered by and documents prepared by the department, and  
18 department officials and employees shall provide assistance and advice.

19 **Section 2.** Section 60-2-201, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"60-2-201. General powers of department.** (1) The department may plan,  
21 lay out, alter, construct, reconstruct, improve, repair, and maintain highways on  
22 the federal-aid systems and state highways according to priorities established  
23 by and on projects selected and designated by the commission.

24 (2) The department may cooperate and contract with counties and  
25 municipalities to provide assistance in performing these functions on other  
26 highways and streets.

27 (3) The department may review and approve projects for the installation of  
28 public works on state highway rights-of-way and authorize a county or  
29 municipality to let contracts related to the improvements.

30 (4) The department shall adopt necessary rules for the construction, repair,

## SAMPLE — BILL WITH AMENDATORY AND NEW MATERIAL

- 1 maintenance, and marking of state highways and bridges.”
- 2 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is
- 3 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 60, chapter 2, part 1, and the
- 4 provisions of Title 60 apply to [section 1].
- 5 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on
- 6 passage and approval.

7 -End-

APPENDIX E  
SAMPLE — BILL AMENDING SESSION LAW

99

57th Legislature

LC 0006.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT MAKING PERMANENT THE  
5 PROVISION THAT ELIMINATES USURY LIMITS UNDER THE MONTANA  
6 RETAIL INSTALLMENT SALES ACT; AMENDING SECTION 5, CHAPTER  
7 276, LAWS OF 1985, AND SECTION 6, CHAPTER 509, LAWS OF 1995;  
8 REPEALING SECTION 7, CHAPTER 554, LAWS OF 1987, SECTIONS 2 AND  
9 5, CHAPTER 155, LAWS OF 1989, AND SECTION 4, CHAPTER 498, LAWS  
10 OF 1995; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

11

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 **Section 1.** Section 5, Chapter 276, Laws of 1985, is amended to read:

14 "**Section 5. Effective date — termination.** [This act] is effective on  
15 passage and approval ~~and terminates July 1, 1987.~~"

16 **Section 2.** Section 6, Chapter 509, Laws of 1995, is amended to read:

17 "**Section 6.** Section 5, Chapter 276, Laws of 1985, is amended to read:

18 "**Section 5. Effective date — termination.** [This act] is effective on  
19 passage and approval ~~and terminates July 1, 1987~~ 2001."

20 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Repealer.** Section 7, Chapter 554, Laws of  
21 1987, sections 2 and 5, Chapter 155, Laws of 1989, and section 4, Chapter  
22 498, Laws of 1995, are repealed.

23 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on  
24 passage and approval.

25 -End-



**EDITORIAL**  
The American Medical Association is proud to have been selected by the National Board of Medical Examiners as the official publisher of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. This honor is a reflection of the high standards of the Association and its commitment to the advancement of the medical profession. The *Journal* is a leading authority on medical science and practice, and its publication is a testament to the Association's dedication to the highest quality of medical education and research.

The *Journal* is published weekly, except on Sundays and public holidays. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Association, and is available for purchase by non-members. The *Journal* is a valuable resource for all medical professionals, and its content is carefully reviewed and edited to ensure the highest quality of information. The Association is committed to providing its members with the most up-to-date and comprehensive medical information available, and the *Journal* is a key part of this commitment.

APPENDIX E  
SAMPLE — BILL AMENDING SESSION LAW

101

57th Legislature

LC 0006.01

\_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

BY REQUEST OF THE JUDICIAL UNIFICATION  
AND FINANCE COMMISSION

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE LOCAL OPTION TAX ON LIGHT VEHICLES MAY BE CHANGED; EXTENDING THE CURRENT DISPOSITION OF THE LOCAL OPTION TAX REVENUE BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND CITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-537, MCA, SECTION 4, CHAPTER 749, LAWS OF 1991, AND SECTION 1, CHAPTER 217, LAWS OF 1993; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 61-3-537, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-3-537. (Temporary) Local option vehicle tax.** (1) A county may impose a local vehicle tax on vehicles subject to a tax under 61-3-504 at a rate of up to 0.7% of the value determined under 61-3-503, in addition to the tax imposed under 61-3-504.

(2) A local vehicle tax is payable at the same time and in the same manner as the tax imposed under 61-3-504. The first priority of the local vehicle tax is for district court funding, and the tax is distributed as follows:

(a) 50% to the county; and

(b) the remaining 50% to the county and the incorporated cities and towns within the county, apportioned on the basis of population. The distribution to a city or town is determined by multiplying the amount of money available by the ratio of the population of the city or town to the total county population. The distribution to the county is determined by multiplying the amount of money available by the ratio of the population of unincorporated areas within the county to the total county population.

APPENDIX E  
SAMPLE — BILL AMENDING SESSION LAW

(3) The governing body of a county may impose, revise, or revoke a local vehicle tax ~~for a fiscal year~~ by adopting a resolution before July 1 ~~of the fiscal year~~, after conducting a public hearing on the proposed resolution. The resolution may provide for the distribution of the local vehicle tax. (*Terminates June 30, 2004 2007—sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1993.*)

**61-3-537. (Effective July 1, 2004 2007) Local option vehicle tax.** (1) A county may impose a local vehicle tax on vehicles subject to a tax under 61-3-504 at a rate of up to 0.7% of the value determined under 61-3-503, in addition to the tax imposed under 61-3-504.

(2) A local vehicle tax is payable at the same time and in the same manner as the tax imposed under 61-3-504 and is distributed in the same manner, based on the registration address of the owner of the motor vehicle.

(3) The governing body of a county may impose, revise, or revoke a local vehicle tax ~~for a fiscal year~~ by adopting a resolution before July 1 ~~of the fiscal year~~, after conducting a public hearing on the proposed resolution."

**Section 2.** Section 4, Chapter 749, Laws of 1991, is amended to read:

**"Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, ~~1993~~ 2007."

**Section 3.** Section 1, Chapter 217, Laws of 1993, is amended to read:

**"Section 1.** Section 4, Chapter 749, Laws of 1991, is amended to read:

**"Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, ~~1993~~ 2007."

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

-End-



APPENDIX F  
SAMPLE — COMMON APPROPRIATION BILL

103

57th Legislature

LC 0007.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR  
5 THE OPERATION OF THE 57TH LEGISLATURE; AND PROVIDING AN  
6 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** The following amounts are  
10 appropriated from the general fund for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003 for the  
11 operation of the 57th legislature and presession costs of the 58th legislature:

12 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH (1104)

13 1. House of Representatives (26) \$1,938,674

14 2. Senate (25) 1,185,627

15 3. Legislative Services Division Feed Bill (22) 2,000,000

16 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on  
17 passage and approval.

18 -End-

1. The first of these is the fact that the human race is not a single, homogeneous mass, but is composed of many distinct groups, each with its own characteristics and customs.
2. The second is the fact that these groups have not remained stationary, but have been constantly changing and evolving, influenced by their environment and by their own actions.
3. The third is the fact that the human race is not a static entity, but is a dynamic one, constantly growing and developing.
4. The fourth is the fact that the human race is not a collection of isolated individuals, but is a social organism, in which the actions of one individual are influenced by the actions of others.
5. The fifth is the fact that the human race is not a collection of passive subjects, but is a collection of active agents, who are constantly shaping their own destiny.
6. The sixth is the fact that the human race is not a collection of isolated individuals, but is a collection of individuals who are constantly interacting with one another.
7. The seventh is the fact that the human race is not a collection of isolated individuals, but is a collection of individuals who are constantly influencing one another.
8. The eighth is the fact that the human race is not a collection of isolated individuals, but is a collection of individuals who are constantly being influenced by one another.
9. The ninth is the fact that the human race is not a collection of isolated individuals, but is a collection of individuals who are constantly being shaped by one another.
10. The tenth is the fact that the human race is not a collection of isolated individuals, but is a collection of individuals who are constantly shaping one another.

These ten facts are the basis of the theory of human evolution, which is the theory that the human race has evolved from a common ancestor, and that it is constantly evolving. This theory is supported by a large amount of evidence, including the study of the fossil record, the study of the anatomy and physiology of the human race, and the study of the customs and traditions of the human race.

The theory of human evolution is a very important theory, because it helps us to understand the human race and its place in the world. It also helps us to understand the relationship between the human race and the other animals of the world.

The theory of human evolution is a very complex theory, and it is not possible to discuss it in detail in this article. However, the ten facts listed above are the basic facts of the theory, and they are the facts that we must understand if we are to understand the theory of human evolution.

APPENDIX F  
SAMPLE — APPROPRIATION BILL TO SATISFY  
JUDGMENT AGAINST STATE

105

57th Legislature

LC 0008.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY TO  
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK TO SATISFY A FINAL JUDGMENT IN  
6 CAUSE NO. 79-14-GF, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
7 DISTRICT OF MONTANA, GREAT FALLS DIVISION, IF THE CASE IS  
8 UPHELD ON APPEAL."

9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the  
12 general fund to the department of livestock \$391,500 for full payment of all  
13 obligations and judgments against the defendants in Cause No. 79-14-GF,  
14 United States district court, district of Montana, Great Falls division, entitled "M.  
15 P. Doran, et al., Plaintiffs v. James W. Glosser, et al., Defendants". This  
16 appropriation is effective only if the United States district court judgment filed  
17 and entered on March 23, 1982, is expressly upheld and made final following  
18 appeal to the United States court of appeals, ninth circuit. Any unexpended  
19 portion of this appropriation reverts to the general fund.

20

-End-





APPENDIX G  
SAMPLE — EXTENSION OF BOND VALIDATING ACT

107

57th Legislature

LC 0009.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE APPLICATION  
5 OF THE BOND VALIDATING ACT; AMENDING SECTION 17-5-205, MCA;  
6 AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 **Section 1.** Section 17-5-205, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"17-5-205. Application.** The application of the Bond Validating Act, Title  
11 17, chapter 5, part 2, is extended to bonds issued and proceedings taken prior  
12 to February 12, 1999 [the effective date of this act]."

13 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on  
14 passage and approval.

15 -End-

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APPENDIX H  
SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

109

57th Legislature

LC 0010.01

\_\_\_\_\_  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 6, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHALL MEET IN ANNUAL SESSIONS."+

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Article V, section 6, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

**"Section 6. Sessions.** The legislature shall ~~meet each odd-numbered year in regular session of not more than 90 legislative days be a continuous body for 2-year periods beginning when newly elected members take office. Any business, bill, or resolution pending at adjournment of a session shall carry over with the same status to any other session of the legislature during the biennium. The legislature shall meet at least once a year in regular session of not more than 60 legislative days.~~ Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members."

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2002 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act\* and the following:

☐ FOR annual sessions.+

☐ AGAINST annual sessions.+

-End-

+Note: The title is limited to 100 words, and the FOR and AGAINST

APPENDIX H  
SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

statements are limited to 25 words each.

\*Note: The guidelines pertaining to brackets (see sections 3-2 and 4-11) do not apply to noncodified sections of ballot issues.

APPENDIX H  
SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

111

57th Legislature

LC 0011.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED  
5 ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 18,  
6 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
7 LEGISLATURE MAY DETERMINE WHEN THE STATE OR ITS  
8 SUBDIVISIONS MAY NOT BE SUED; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED  
9 EFFECTIVE DATE."+

10  
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 **Section 1.** Article II, section 18, of The Constitution of the State of Montana  
13 is amended to read:

14 **"Section 18. State subject to suit.** The state, counties, cities, towns, and  
15 all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury  
16 to a person or property except as may be specifically provided by law by a  
17 two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature. ~~This provision shall apply only~~  
18 ~~to causes of action arising after July 1, 1973."~~

19 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** If approved by the electorate,  
20 this amendment is effective September 1, 2003.

21 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Submission to electorate.** This amendment  
22 shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to  
23 be held in November 2002 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act\* and  
24 the following:

25 [ ] FOR allowing the legislature to determine sovereign immunity.+

26 [ ] AGAINST allowing the legislature to determine sovereign immunity  
27 (i.e., for continuing to prohibit sovereign immunity).+

28 -End-

+Note: The title is limited to 100 words, and the FOR and AGAINST



APPENDIX H  
SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

statements are limited to 25 words each.

\*Note: The guidelines pertaining to brackets (see sections 3-2 and 4-11) do not apply to noncodified sections of ballot issues.

APPENDIX H  
SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

113

57th Legislature

LC 0012.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED  
5 ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII OF THE  
6 MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL SECTIONS 3 AND 4, WHICH  
7 PROVIDE FOR STATEWIDE PROPERTY TAX APPRAISAL, ASSESSMENT,  
8 AND EQUALIZATION; REPLACING THOSE PROVISIONS WITH A  
9 PROHIBITION AGAINST STATE-IMPOSED TAXES ON REAL OR  
10 PERSONAL PROPERTY; ALLOWING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPTION TO  
11 TAX REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY; AND REQUIRING THE STATE TO  
12 IMPOSE A GENERAL SALES TAX OF UP TO 4 PERCENT TO RECOVER  
13 REVENUE LOSSES FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST STATE-IMPOSED  
14 PROPERTY TAXES."+

15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

17 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Repealer.** Article VIII, sections 3 and 4, of The  
18 Constitution of the State of Montana are repealed.

19 NEW SECTION. **Section 2.** Article VIII of The Constitution of the State of  
20 Montana is amended by adding a new section 17 that reads:

21 **Section 17. State prohibited from levying property tax — local option.**  
22 The legislature is prohibited from imposing a tax on the value of real or personal  
23 property. A local government unit may, at its option, impose a tax on real and  
24 personal property to defray the expenses of the local government unit.

25 NEW SECTION. **Section 3.** Article VIII of The Constitution of the State of  
26 Montana is amended by adding a new section 18 that reads:

27 **Section 18. Sales tax.** The state shall levy a general sales tax of up to 4%  
28 to recover revenue losses because of the provisions of section 17.

29 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Submission to electorate.** The amendment  
30 set forth in sections 1 through 3 shall be submitted to the qualified electors of

# APPENDIX H SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

1 Montana at the general election to be held in November 2002 by printing on the  
2 ballot the full title of this act\* and the following:

3 [ ] FOR prohibiting state-imposed property taxes, allowing local  
4 governments to impose property taxes, and requiring a state sales tax  
5 to recover revenue losses.+

6 [ ] AGAINST prohibiting state-imposed property taxes, allowing local  
7 governments to impose property taxes, and requiring a state sales tax  
8 to recover revenue losses.+

9 -End-

+Note: The title is limited to 100 words, and the FOR and AGAINST statements are limited to 25 words each.

\*Note: The guidelines pertaining to brackets (see sections 3-2 and 4-11) do not apply to noncodified sections of ballot issues.



APPENDIX I  
SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR  
STATUTORY AMENDMENT

115

57th Legislature

LC 0013.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT RAISING THE LEGAL DRINKING  
5 AGE TO 21; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED ACT BE SUBMITTED TO  
6 THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA; AMENDING SECTION  
7 16-3-301, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."+

8  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 **Section 1.** Section 16-3-301, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"16-3-301. Unlawful purchases, sales, or deliveries.** (1) It is unlawful for  
12 a licensed retailer to purchase or acquire beer from anyone except a brewer or  
13 wholesaler licensed under the provisions of this code.

14 (2) It is unlawful for a licensee, an employee of the licensee, or any other  
15 person to sell, deliver, or give away or cause or permit to be sold, delivered, or  
16 given away any alcoholic beverage to:

17 (a) a person under ~~19~~ 21 years of age;

18 (b) an intoxicated person or any person actually, apparently, or obviously  
19 intoxicated.

20 (3) A minor or other person who knowingly misrepresents qualifications for  
21 the purpose of obtaining an alcoholic beverage from a licensee is equally guilty  
22 with the licensee and, upon conviction, is subject to the penalty provided in  
23 45-5-624. However, this code may not be construed as authorizing or  
24 permitting the sale of an alcoholic beverage to any person in violation of any  
25 federal law.

26 (4) A licensee shall display in a prominent place in the premises a placard as  
27 issued by the department stating fully the consequences for violations of the  
28 provisions of this code by persons under ~~19~~ 21 years of age."

29 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** If approved by the electorate,  
30 this act\* is effective January 1, 2003.

## APPENDIX I

### SAMPLE — REFERENDUM FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENT

1     **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Submission to electorate.** The question of  
2     whether section 1 of this act\* will become effective shall be submitted to the  
3     qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November  
4     2002 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act\* and the following:

5     [ ] FOR raising the legal drinking age to 21.+

6 ☐ AGAINST raising the legal drinking age to 21.+

7 -End-

+Note: The title is limited to 100 words, and the FOR and AGAINST statements are limited to 25 words each.

\*Note: The guidelines pertaining to brackets (see sections 3-2 and 4-11) do not apply to noncodified sections of ballot issues.

APPENDIX J  
SAMPLE — BILL AMENDING INITIATIVE

117

57th Legislature

LC 0014.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3 BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 7 OF  
6 INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 97; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE  
7 EFFECTIVE DATE."

8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 **Section 1.** Section 7 of Montana Initiative Measure No. 97 is amended to  
11 read:

12 **"Section 7. Board — membership — vacancies.** (1) There is a Montana  
13 state board of dentistry. The board consists of five members to be appointed  
14 by the governor within ~~30~~ 60 days of approval of [this act]. The board is  
15 appointed as prescribed in 2-15-124, except that a member need not be an  
16 attorney. Three members of the board must be denturists who have had,  
17 immediately prior to their appointment, at least ~~5~~ 3 years' experience in the  
18 practice of dentistry. Two members of the board must be lay persons, one  
19 member a senior citizen representative and the other member a low-income  
20 representative.

21 (2) Members of the board shall hold office for terms of 3 years each.

22 (3) Each member of the board shall hold office for his term and until his a  
23 successor is appointed by the governor."

24 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on  
25 passage and approval.

26

-End-





APPENDIX K  
SAMPLE — BILL GENERALLY DIRECTING  
AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

119

57th Legislature

LC 0015.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DIRECTING AN AMENDMENT TO  
5 ARM 4.6.607 TO PERMIT A HUSBAND AND WIFE FILING SEPARATE  
6 INCOME TAX RETURNS TO DIVIDE THE INCOME FROM A JOINT  
7 VENTURE OR PARTNERSHIP ACTIVELY MANAGED BY BOTH; AND  
8 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE  
9 APPLICABILITY DATE."

10

11 WHEREAS, income tax regulations promulgated by the Department of  
12 Revenue now provide that net income from a business operated jointly by a  
13 husband and wife, such as a farm or ranch, is the income of only one spouse  
14 unless the spouses file as a partnership on their federal income tax return; and

15 WHEREAS, ARM 4.6.607 is arbitrary in that it obliges married taxpayers to  
16 forego either the federal tax advantages of joint filing or the state tax  
17 advantages of separate filing; and

18 WHEREAS, ARM 4.6.607 is against public policy in that it fails to recognize  
19 the equal contributions of both spouses to the management of many farms,  
20 ranches, small businesses, and firms.

21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

23 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Department to amend rule.** The department  
24 of revenue shall amend ARM 4.6.607 to delete the requirement that spouses  
25 dividing income from a joint venture must organize a bona fide partnership and  
26 file federal income tax returns as such and to provide that spouses may allocate  
27 the income from a jointly managed business according to their respective  
28 contributions of time, labor, and capital to the business. The amendment must  
29 be made to apply to tax years beginning after December 31, 2000.

30 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on

APPENDIX K  
SAMPLE — BILL GENERALLY DIRECTING  
AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

1 passage and approval.

2 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Retroactive applicability.** [This act] applies  
3 retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to tax years beginning after  
4 December 31, 2000.

5 -End-



LC 0016.01

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9

SAMPLE — BILL DIRECTING SPECIFIC AMENDMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE & REPEALING ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

(b) that it was registered for the first time during the tax year for which the first credit is claimed or that the industry meets the definition of expanding per 15-31-124, MCA, as amended; and

(c) that ~~the corporation is engaged in manufacturing~~ the applicant is a manufacturer as that term is defined in 15-31-124, MCA; and

~~(d) that the product manufactured is one, which prior to its production by the corporation, was not then currently produced in this state."~~

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Repealer.** ARM 42.23.517 is repealed.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date — applicability.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval and applies to tax years beginning after December 31, 2001.

-End-

APPENDIX L  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING  
ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

123

57th Legislature

LC 0017.01

1                    \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE  
6 ADOPTION OF A RULE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND  
7 PARKS PROVIDING FOR THE EXAMINATION OF APPLICANTS FOR  
8 OUTFITTERS' LICENSES AT LOCATIONS OUTSIDE HELENA.

9

10        WHEREAS, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks licenses outfitters  
11 by examining applicants for licenses at its Helena offices; and

12        WHEREAS, the Department could examine applicants at its regional  
13 headquarters with little administrative inconvenience and by so doing would  
14 relieve the license applicants of an unwarranted burden.

15

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
17 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

18        That the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission be requested to immediately  
19 initiate proceedings to adopt a rule setting out procedures for the examination  
20 of applicants for outfitters' licenses at the various regional headquarters of the  
21 Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

22

-End-





APPENDIX L  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING  
AMENDMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

125

57th Legislature

LC 0018.01

1                    \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN  
6 AMENDMENT TO ARM 4.6.607 TO PERMIT A HUSBAND AND WIFE FILING  
7 SEPARATE INCOME TAX RETURNS TO DIVIDE THE INCOME FROM A  
8 JOINT VENTURE OR PARTNERSHIP ACTIVELY MANAGED BY BOTH.

9

10 WHEREAS, income tax regulations promulgated by the Department of  
11 Revenue now provide that net income from a business operated jointly by a  
12 husband and wife, such as a farm or ranch, is the income of only one spouse  
13 unless the spouses file as a partnership on their federal income tax return; and

14 WHEREAS, ARM 4.6.607 is arbitrary in that it obliges married taxpayers to  
15 forego either the federal tax advantages of joint filing or the state tax  
16 advantages of separate filing; and

17 WHEREAS, ARM 4.6.607 is against public policy in that it fails to recognize  
18 the equal contributions of both spouses to the management of many farms,  
19 ranches, small businesses, and firms.

20

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
22 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

23 That the Department of Revenue be strongly urged to proceed within 30  
24 days to amend ARM 4.6.607 to delete the requirement that spouses dividing  
25 income from a joint venture must organize a bona fide partnership and file  
26 federal income tax returns as such and to provide that spouses may allocate  
27 the income from a jointly managed business according to their respective  
28 contributions of time, labor, and capital to the business.

29

-End-

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OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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APPENDIX M  
SAMPLE — SIMPLE RESOLUTION

127

57th Legislature

LC 0019.01

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
OF MONTANA THAT WHENEVER PRACTICABLE, ITS MEMBERS SHALL  
SALVAGE USED PAPER FOR RECYCLING.

WHEREAS, the Legislature and offices of state government use large  
amounts of paper each year; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature, this state, and this nation are concerned about  
the waste of paper; and

WHEREAS, the efficient use of forest products is of great concern to all of  
our citizens; and

WHEREAS, this House of Representatives desires to make a concerted  
effort toward a continual program of salvaging paper products for reuse; and

WHEREAS, a new industry in the State of Montana has indicated its  
willingness to cooperate with an immediate program of recycling.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the members of this House of Representatives immediately institute a  
used-paper recycling program by depositing used paper in the proper  
receptacles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House contact the  
proper authorities and make all arrangements necessary to carry out this  
program.

-End-



APPENDIX N  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION

129

57th Legislature

LC 0020.01

1                    \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING MOTORISTS  
6 TO DRIVE WITH THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON DURING THE DAYTIME.

7

8 WHEREAS, hundreds of Montanans lose their lives in traffic accidents each  
9 year; and

10 WHEREAS, one out of every five traffic accidents on the open highways is  
11 the result of a head-on collision; and

12 WHEREAS, etc.

13

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
15 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16 That members of the motoring public of Montana be encouraged to drive  
17 with their headlights on low beam in the daytime to deter head-on collisions on  
18 the open highways.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this  
20 resolution to the Montana Congressional Delegation and to the publisher of  
21 each newspaper in the state.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, etc.

23

-End-



# THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

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APPENDIX N  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION  
(using outline form)

131

57th Legislature

LC 0021.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING MOTORISTS  
6 TO DRIVE WITH THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON DURING THE DAYTIME.

7 \_\_\_\_\_

8 WHEREAS, hundreds of Montanans lose their lives in traffic accidents each  
9 year; and

10 WHEREAS, one out of every five traffic accidents on the open highways is  
11 the result of a head-on collision; and

12 WHEREAS, etc.

13

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
15 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16 (1) That members of the motoring public of Montana be encouraged to drive  
17 with their headlights on low beam in the daytime to deter head-on collisions on  
18 the open highways.

19 (2) That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the  
20 Montana Congressional Delegation and to the publisher of each newspaper in  
21 the state.

22 (3) That this resolution, etc.

23 -End-





APPENDIX N  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING  
INTERIM STUDY

133

57th Legislature

LC 0022.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE  
6 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO  
7 STUDY THE EFFECTS OF AND POSSIBLE REMEDIES TO  
8 TELEMARKETING FRAUD; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE  
9 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 58TH LEGISLATURE.

10

11 WHEREAS, telemarketing fraud is an increasing problem in the state and  
12 throughout the country, with serious financial consequences for Montana  
13 citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, the perpetrators of telemarketing fraud prey on senior citizens  
15 as well as others, using sophisticated methods of deception; and

16 WHEREAS, other states have enacted laws designed to deter and  
17 prosecute abuses by telemarketing firms and have met with mixed success;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, federal laws and regulations aimed at protecting consumers  
20 from telemarketing fraud may be inadequate to the task of preventing and  
21 punishing this type of crime; and

22 WHEREAS, members of the Montana Legislature have introduced bills in  
23 this and previous sessions to counter telemarketing fraud, but none have been  
24 passed into law.

25

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
27 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

28 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate  
29 interim committee to:

30 (1) identify the types, frequency, and consequences of telemarketing fraud

APPENDIX N  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING  
INTERIM STUDY

1 that are occurring in Montana;

2 (2) consider the pace of technological change and the constitutional  
3 protection afforded to free speech and interstate commerce and the effects that  
4 these conditional elements may have on available methods of countering  
5 telemarketing fraud;

6 (3) examine and evaluate the methods adopted in other states to curb and  
7 punish telemarketing fraud;

8 (4) consider the value and effectiveness of federal laws and regulations with  
9 respect to various types of telemarketing;

10 (5) explore practical methods of deterring and prosecuting telemarketing  
11 fraud; and

12 (6) analyze the feasibility of legislation that would effectively enforce  
13 restrictions on telemarketing in Montana.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee seek and  
15 welcome information and other constructive input from the Department of  
16 Commerce, the Department of Justice, the Public Service Commission,  
17 telecommunications companies, senior citizens' groups, federal agencies, and  
18 other interested persons in the process of evaluation and before reaching  
19 conclusions and making recommendations for future legislative action.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee report its findings,  
21 conclusions, and recommendations to the 58th Legislature.

22 -End-

APPENDIX N  
SAMPLE — JOINT RESOLUTION AMENDING JOINT RULES

135

57th Legislature

LC 0023.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA AMENDING JOINT  
6 RULE 40-70 OF THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE THAT A BILL  
7 EARMARKING FUNDING MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THE  
8 FUNDS ARE USED FOR THOSE FROM WHOM THEY ARE DERIVED OR  
9 UNLESS THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE EARMARKING; AND  
10 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

11  
12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

14 (1) That Joint Rule 40-70 be amended to read:

15 **"40-70. Bills with same purpose — vetoes.** (1) A bill may not be  
16 introduced or received in a house after that house, during that session, has  
17 finally rejected a bill designed to accomplish the same purpose, except with the  
18 approval of the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for  
19 introduction or reception.

20 (2) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

21 (3) It is not in order in either house to consider any bill providing for the  
22 earmarking of funding for the purpose of defraying particular costs of an  
23 agency, program, or function unless the funds are to be used for those from  
24 whom they are derived or are earmarked by the Montana Constitution. The  
25 determination of whether earmarking in a bill is permissible must be made by  
26 the Rules Committee of the house considering the bill."

27 (2) That this resolution be effective on passage.

28 -End-





57th Legislature

LC 0024.01

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REGULATING SALES OF NEW  
5 DRUGS; AND AMENDING SECTION 50-31-111, MCA."

6

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8 (Refer to Introduced Bill)

9 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

10 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Sale or donation of new drug unlawful —**

11 **exceptions.** Except as provided in [section 2], a person may not sell, offer for  
12 sale, hold for sale, or give away a new drug unless:

13 (1) a federal application has been approved;

14 (2) the drug is not subject to federal law; or

15 (3) an application has been filed with the department containing:

16 (a) a summary of the conclusions drawn from investigation of the drug;

17 (b) a list of the substances of which the drug is composed; and

18 (c) a sample of the label proposed as identification for the drug, which may  
19 not:

20 (i) be false or misleading; or

21 (ii) contain a name used by a registered drug unless:

22 (A) permission has been granted and a license has been obtained; or

23 (B) the name is for temporary use.

24 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Nonapplication.** [Section 1] does not apply to  
25 any drug subject to 50-31-102 if the drug:

26 (1) is commercially sold in the United States; and

27 (2) has been tested by the department.

28 **Section 3.** Section 50-31-111, MCA, is amended to read:

29 **"50-31-111. When labeling requirement complied with. (1) A**

30 requirement made by or under authority of this chapter that a word, statement,

APPENDIX O  
SAMPLE — SUBSTITUTE BILL

1 or other information shall ~~must~~ appear on the label is not complied with unless  
2 the word, statement, or other information also appears on the outside container  
3 or wrapper, if any there be is one, of the retail package of the article or is easily  
4 legible through the outside container or wrapper.

5 (2) A new drug must meet the labeling requirements provided for in [section  
6 11.]

7 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 2]  
8 are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 50, chapter 31, and the  
9 provisions of Title 50, chapter 31, apply to [sections 1 and 2].

10 -End-



APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETE

139

BILL IDENTIFICATION (Designation & No.)	57th Legislature	LC 0025.01
	1	_____ BILL NO. _____
(Sponsor)	2	INTRODUCED BY _____
(State agency or committee requestor, if any)	3	BY REQUEST OF _____
	4	
(TITLE)	5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING A
	6	SAMPLE BILL FOR THE BILL DRAFTING MANUAL;
	7	PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; CREATING A STATE DEBT;
	8	SUPERSEDING THE UNFUNDED MANDATE LAWS;
	9	AMENDING SECTIONS 2-17-301 AND 17-7-502, MCA,
	10	SECTION 4, CHAPTER 479, LAWS OF 1991, AND SECTION 1,
	11	CHAPTER 217, LAWS OF 1993; REPEALING SECTIONS
	12	27-18-101, 27-18-102, 27-18-103, 27-18-104, 27-18-105,
	13	45-5-102, AND 45-5-601, MCA, AND SECTION 6, CHAPTER 20,
	14	SPECIAL LAWS OF NOVEMBER 1993; AND PROVIDING
	15	EFFECTIVE DATES, A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE,
	16	AND A TERMINATION DATE."
	17	
PREAMBLE (Optional)	18	WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority provided in section
	19	5-11-112, MCA, the State of Montana has delegated the Bill
	20	Drafting Manual Committee to provide a sample bill form to aid in
	21	drafting bills to be considered by the Legislature; and
	22	WHEREAS, the Committee has drafted a composite bill
	23	containing unrelated sections and uncharacteristically inaccurate
	24	internal references in order to provide examples of various bill
	25	parts and to demonstrate the format used in drafting, amending, or
	26	repealing statutes and session law.
	27	
ENACTING CLAUSE (Mandatory)	28	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
	29	MONTANA:

APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETEBODY  
(Short title)

1     NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 4  
2 and 6 through 8] may be cited as the “Bill Sample Act”.

(Purpose)

3     NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of  
4 [sections 1 through 4 and 6 through 8] is to create a bill, the  
5 structure of which may be used by drafters as an example of  
6 correct style and form.

(Definitions)

7     NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Definitions.** As used in [sections  
8 1 through 4 and 6 through 8], the following definitions apply:

9         (1) “Code” means the Montana Code Annotated.

10        (2) “Department” means the department of public health and  
11 human services as provided for in 2-15-2201.

12        (3) “Legislative services division” has the meaning provided in  
13 5-11-111.

14        (4) “Montana constitution” or “constitution” means The  
15 Constitution of the State of Montana.

16        (5) “Recodify” means to compile, arrange, rearrange, and  
17 prepare the code for publication.

(Basic provisions)

18     NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Department head.** Each  
19 department head shall supervise the functions vested in the  
20 department.

(Amendatory material)

21     **Section 5.** Section 2-17-301, MCA, is amended to read:

22         **“2-17-301. Supervision of mailing facilities.** The controller  
23 department shall maintain and supervise the central mailing  
24 facilities.”

(New material)

25     NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Code commissioner.** There is  
26 within the legal services office of the legislative services division a  
27 code commissioner.

28     NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Sale or donation of new drug**  
29 **unlawful — exceptions — rulemaking authority.** A person may  
30 not sell, offer for sale, hold for sale, or give away a new drug unless:

APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETE

141

(Outline form) 1 (1) a federal application has been approved;  
2 (2) the drug is not subject to federal law; or  
3 (3) an application has been filed with the department  
4 containing:  
5 (a) a summary of the conclusions drawn from investigation of  
6 the drug;  
7 (b) a list of the substances of which the drug is composed; and  
8 (c) a sample of the label proposed as identification for the drug,  
9 which may not:  
10 (i) be false or misleading; or  
11 (ii) contain a name used by a registered drug unless:  
12 (A) permission has been granted and a license has been  
13 obtained; or  
14 (B) the name is for temporary use.  
15 (4) The department shall [may] adopt rules regarding the  
16 dispensation of new drugs pursuant to the standards established  
17 in [sections 1 through 4 and 6 through 8].

(Penalty) 18 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Penalty.** A person convicted of  
19 violating 45-2-102 shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500 or  
20 be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months,  
21 or both.

(Amend session law) 22 **Section 9.** Section 4, Chapter 749, Laws of 1991, is amended  
23 to read:

24 **"Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 1993  
25 2007."

26 **Section 10.** Section 1, Chapter 217, Laws of 1993, is amended  
27 to read:

28 **"Section 1.** Section 4, Chapter 749, Laws of 1991, is amended  
29 to read:

30 **"Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 1993



APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETE

1 ~~2001 2007.~~”

(Repealer)

2 **NEW SECTION. Section 11. Repealer.** Sections 27-18-101,  
3 27-18-102, 27-18-103, 27-18-104, 27-18-105, 45-5-102, and  
4 45-5-601, MCA, and section 6, Chapter 20, Special Laws of  
5 November 1993, are repealed.

(Transfer of funds)

6 **NEW SECTION. Section 12. Transfer of funds.** The  
7 department of fish, wildlife, and parks is authorized to transfer  
8 money appropriated in [sections 1 through 4] among fund types.

9 **NEW SECTION. Section 13. Transfer of funds.** Any general  
10 fund reversions for fiscal year 2001 in excess of \$15.9 million and  
11 any general fund reversions for fiscal year 2002 in excess of \$6  
12 million must be transferred to the long-range program account to  
13 be used to fund capital projects.

(Appropriation)

14 **NEW SECTION. Section 14. Appropriation.** There is  
15 appropriated \$2 million from the general fund to the department of  
16 revenue for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

(Unfunded mandate)

17 **NEW SECTION. Section 15. Unfunded mandate laws**  
18 **superseded.** The provisions of [this act] expressly supersede and  
19 modify the requirements of 1-2-112 through 1-2-116.

(Notification)

20 **NEW SECTION. Section 16. Notification to tribal**  
21 **governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act]  
22 to each tribal government located on the seven Montana  
23 reservations and to the Little Shell band of Chippewa. *[Use for*  
24 *issues not related to land, such as changes to state services or*  
25 *programs or membership on a board or commission.]*

26 **NEW SECTION. Section 17. Notification to tribal**  
27 **governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act]  
28 to each tribal government located on the seven Montana  
29 reservations. *[Use for specific land-related issues, such as*  
30 *hunting, fishing, mining, water, etc., or for issues that may relate to*

APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETE

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1 *or affect the land of tribes, such as taxes.]*

(Name change)

2 **NEW SECTION. Section 18. Name change — directions to**  
3 **code commissioner.** Wherever a reference to the “fish and game  
4 commission”, meaning the commission established in 2-15-3402,  
5 appears in legislation enacted by the 2001 legislature, the code  
6 commissioner is directed to change it to an appropriate reference  
7 to the “fish, wildlife, and parks commission”.

(Codification  
instruction)

8 **NEW SECTION. Section 19. Codification instructions. (1)**  
9 [Sections 1 through 3 and 6 through 8] are intended to be codified  
10 as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 6, part 7, and the provisions of  
11 Title 2, chapter 6, part 7, apply to [sections 1 through 3 and 6  
12 through 8].

13 (2) [Section 4] is intended to be codified as an integral part of  
14 Title 2, chapter 5, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 5, apply to  
15 [section 4].

16 (3) Title 5, chapter 23, parts 8 and 9, are intended to be  
17 renumbered and codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 7.

(Coordination  
instruction)

18 **NEW SECTION. Section 20. Coordination instruction. If**  
19      Bill No.      [LC 1249] is passed and approved and if it includes  
20 a section that amends 56-4-401, then [section 5 of this act],  
21 amending 2-17-301, is void.

22 **NEW SECTION. Section 21. Coordination instruction. (1) If**  
23 [section 1] of Senate Bill No. 31 is not passed and approved, then  
24 the bracketed language in that part of [section 1 of this act] that  
25 amends 46-18-201(10), in both versions, is void and the phrase  
26 “recommended by the department of corrections and included in  
27 the sentence” must be reinserted.

28 (2) If [section 1] of Senate Bill No. 31 is passed and approved,  
29 then:

30 (a) the words “medically safe” are inserted after “sentenced to

APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETE

1 undergo" in each place in which that phrase appears in  
2 subsections (1) through (3) of [section 1] of Senate Bill No. 31;

3 (b) the words "or other medically safe drug treatment that  
4 reduces sexual fantasies, sex drive, or both" are inserted after the  
5 word "equivalent" in each place in which "equivalent" appears in  
6 subsections (1) and (2) of [section 1] of Senate Bill No. 31; and

7 (c) the words "or other medically safe drug treatment that  
8 reduces sexual fantasies, sex drive, or both," are inserted after the  
9 word "equivalent" in subsection (3) of [section 1] of Senate Bill No.  
10 31.

11 **NEW SECTION. Section 22. Coordination instruction.** (1) If  
12 Senate Bill No. 7 and [this act] are both passed and approved, then  
13 Senate Bill No. 7 is void.

14 (2) If Senate Bill No. 377 and [this act] are both passed and  
15 approved, then [sections 1 through 4 of this act] are void. If Senate  
16 Bill No. 377 fails, then [this act] is void.

17 (3) If House Bill No. 284, House Bill No. 546, and [this act] are all  
18 passed and approved, then [section 1] of House Bill No. 284 is  
19 amended to read:

20 **"NEW SECTION. Section 1. Environmental rehabilitation**  
21 **and prevention account.** (1) There is an environmental  
22 rehabilitation and prevention account in the state special revenue  
23 fund provided for in 17-2-102.

24 (2) There must be deposited in the account unclaimed or  
25 excess reclamation bond money received, pursuant to 82-4-141,  
26 and interest earned on the account.

27 (3) Money in the account is available to the department of  
28 environmental quality by appropriation and must be used to pay for  
29 reclamation of unclaimed mine lands for which the department  
30 may not require reclamation by a legally responsible party.



1 (4) Whenever money deposited in the account during a fiscal  
2 year exceeds ~~\$250,000~~ \$100,000, the amount deposited in the  
3 account during the fiscal year in excess of ~~\$250,000~~ \$100,000  
4 must, at the end of the fiscal year, be transferred to the general  
5 fund."

(Saving clause) 6 **NEW SECTION. Section 23. Saving clause.** [This act] does  
7 not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were  
8 incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date  
9 of this act].

(Severability clause) 10 **NEW SECTION. Section 24. Severability.** If a part of [this  
11 act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part  
12 remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its  
OR 13 applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that  
14 are severable from the invalid applications.

(Nonseverability clause) 15 **NEW SECTION. Section 25. Nonseverability.** It is the intent  
16 of the legislature that each part of [this act] is essentially dependent  
17 upon every other part, and if one part is held unconstitutional or  
18 invalid, all other parts are invalid.

(Contingent voidness) 19 **NEW SECTION. Section 26. Contingent voidness.** In order  
20 to maintain a balanced budget, because [this act] reduces  
21 revenue, it may not be transmitted to the governor unless a  
22 corresponding identified reduction in spending is contained in  
23 House Bill No. 2. If a corresponding identified reduction in  
24 spending is not contained in House Bill No. 2, then [this act] is void.

(Extraordinary vote) 25 **NEW SECTION. Section 27. Three-fifths vote required.**  
26 Because 60-3-201(1)(e) authorizes the expenditure of a portion of  
27 the gasoline dealers' license tax for weed control along the state  
28 road system, Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana constitution  
29 requires a vote of three-fifths of the members of each house of the  
30 legislature for passage.

APPENDIX P  
SAMPLE BILL FORM — COMPLETE1     **NEW SECTION. Section 28. Three-fourths vote required.**

2     Because [section 2] appropriates money from the coal severance  
3     tax trust fund, Article IX, section 5, of the Montana constitution  
4     requires a vote of three-fourths of the members of each house of  
5     the legislature for passage.

6     **NEW SECTION. Section 29. Two-thirds vote required.**

7     Because [section 2] limits governmental liability, Article II, section  
8     18, of the Montana constitution requires a vote of two-thirds of the  
9     members of each house of the legislature for passage.

10    **NEW SECTION. Section 30. Two-thirds vote required —**

11   **contingent voidness.** Because [section 2] limits governmental  
12   liability, Article II, section 18, of the Montana constitution requires a  
13   vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature  
14   for passage. If [this act] is not approved by at least two-thirds of the  
15   members of each house of the legislature, then [section 2] is void.

16    **NEW SECTION. Section 31. Two-thirds vote required.**

17   Because [section 1] authorizes the creation of state debt, Article  
18   VIII, section 8, of the Montana constitution requires a vote of  
19   two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature for  
20   passage.

(Effective date) 21   **NEW SECTION. Section 32. Effective dates.** (1) Except as  
22   provided in subsections (2) and (3), [this act] is effective October 1,  
23   2001.

24   (2) [Sections 1 through 4 and 9 and this section] are effective on  
25   passage and approval.

26   (3) [Sections 6 through 8] are effective December 1, 2001.

27   **NEW SECTION. Section 33. Effective date.** [This act] is  
28   effective December 1, 2001.

(Applicability) 29   **NEW SECTION. Section 34. Retroactive applicability.** [This  
30   act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to

1 occurrences after December 31, 2000.

2 **NEW SECTION. Section 35. Retroactive applicability.** [This  
3 act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to tax  
4 years beginning after December 31, 2000.

5 **NEW SECTION. Section 36. Applicability.** [This act] applies  
6 to proceedings begun after December 31, 2001.

(Termination) 7 **NEW SECTION. Section 37. Termination.** [Sections 1  
8 through 6] terminate October 1, 2004.\*

9 -End-

\*Noncodified sections should not be terminated. A repealer section may not be terminated, i.e., once Code sections are repealed, they may not be "unrepealed". See section 4-2 for a listing of codified and noncodified sections from the bill body.





## MESSAGE TO CODIFIER

LC \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

BILL DRAFTER \_\_\_\_\_

Bill  
Section No.

Statute No.  
Suggested

Blank lined paper for writing.





APPENDIX R  
BILL DRAFTER CHECKLIST

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Drafter \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Each question on the checklist calls for "yes", "no", or N/A response. Section number references are to Bill Drafting Manual.**

- 1 - Conformity with state and federal Constitutions considered (section 1-2)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 - Existing Montana statutes reviewed to avoid conflicts, duplication, or confusion (section 1-4)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 - Internal references checked (section 1-8)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 - Title contains one subject clearly expressed (section 4-4)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 - Code placement and applicability considered; codification instruction included in draft or suggested assignment of statute numbers attached (section 4-18, Appendix Q)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 - Fiscal note required (section 6-1)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 - Local government fiscal impact (section 1-2)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 - Fiscal impact requiring July 1 effective date (sections 4-25, 6-1)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 - Appropriations (section 4-4(6))? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 - If state agency bill, "By Request" line included (section 4-3(4))? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 - Note attached indicating source of draft (e.g., model act, other state statute, etc.) (section 1-7)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 - Tribal notification required (section 1-3)? \_\_\_\_\_



## REPEALING, RENUMBERING, OR TERMINATING AN ENTIRE CHAPTER OR PART

**EXAMPLE:** repealing Title 15, chapter 71, part 1

Search section text for: "title 15, chapter 71, part 1"  
"title 15, chapter 71, parts" (finds "parts 1 through 4")  
"title 15, chapter 71" & part or parts (finds "part 1 of Title 15, chapter 71" or "parts 1 through 4 of Title 15, chapter 71")

Search section text in Title 15 only (limit search) for: "chapter 71, parts"  
"part 1"  
parts & 1 (finds "parts 1 through 4 of this chapter")

**EXAMPLE:** repealing Title 30, chapter 8

Search section text for: "title 30, chapter 8"  
"title 30, chapters"

Search section text in Title 30 only (limit search) for: "chapter 8"  
chapters & 8

## CHANGING A DEFINED TERM

Any time that you change a term that is defined in a definition section, you **MUST** search the appropriate part of the MCA for that term and change each occurrence. Think of as many possible (some bad) ways of using the term.

**EXAMPLE:** "child with disabilities" to "child with a disability"

Search section text for: "child with disabilities"  
"children with disabilities"  
any other variation that you can think of

## CHANGING A PHRASE (DEFINED OR NOT)

**EXAMPLE:** youth in need of supervision

Search section text for: "youths in need of supervision"  
"youth" and "supervision" (finds "a youth who is determined to be in need of supervision")



APPENDIX S  
TIPS ON SEARCHING

**EXAMPLE:** game wardens' retirement system

Search section text for:

"game wardens retirement" (Folio  
doesn't recognize the apostrophe in  
"wardens")  
"game wardens" and "retirement" (finds  
"highway patrol officers', sheriffs', game  
wardens', firefighters' unified, or  
municipal police officers' retirement  
system")

APPENDIX T  
PREINTRODUCTION FORM

155

**PRESESSION AUTHORITY TO \*PREINTRODUCE, NUMBER,  
AND DISTRIBUTE A BILL  
DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM EXCEPT TO INTRODUCE THIS BILL  
SIGNING THIS FORM IS THE SAME AS SIGNING THE BILL AND  
DELIVERING THE BILL TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OR SECRETARY OF THE SENATE**

[Joint Rule 40-40(6)]

To the Executive Director of the Montana Legislative Services Division:

**\*I understand that signing and returning this form has the same effect as introducing the bill during the session. This preintroduction form will authorize the assignment of a bill number and distribution of the bill prior to the convening of the legislative session.**

Please PREINTRODUCE this bill by typing my name and the names of the additional sponsors (if any) on the bill, numbering the bill, and distributing the bill prior to the convening of the legislative session.

You are hereby authorized to number and distribute LC \_\_\_\_\_.01 prior to the convening of the legislative session. The subject of this bill, as reflected in the title, is:

"AN ACT ...."

YES, I WANT TO PREINTRODUCE THIS BILL AND  
I AGREE TO SPONSOR LC \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF SPONSOR (SIGN)

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF SPONSOR (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Additional sponsors (Sign & Print):

**TO PREINTRODUCE THIS BILL, RETURN THIS FORM, SIGNED AND DATED,  
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, FIRST  
FLOOR, EAST WING, STATE CAPITOL, HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1706. A  
BILL NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED, YOUR NAME WILL BE TYPED ON THE  
BILL, AND THE BILL WILL BE DISTRIBUTED PRIOR TO THE CONVENING  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

**DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM EXCEPT TO INTRODUCE THIS BILL**





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